

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A rumoured coup plot by army officers in Lahore drew an official denial from a government spokesman on Sunday who said no military men have been arrested in connection with any such plan.

"There is absolutely no truth to these rumours," principal information officer Younis M. Sethi said. "No army officers have been arrested to the best of my knowledge."

The rumours, which have been persistent, surfaced a month ago when martial law authorities announced that police had smashed a gun-running racket in Lahore, close to the border with India.

Police said they seized a "huge quantity" of arms that reportedly included 7.62 calibre machine-guns, anti-tank grenades and small arms ammunition as well as a cache of gold and silver.

According to the official version, one policeman and a "smuggler" were killed in a shootout during the raid, but unofficial reports say an army major died.

The government of military ruler, Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, has refused to discuss details of the case until investigations are complete.

However, rumours of a planned coup were fuelled by a report in the government-controlled Pakistan Times this week which said scores of people were arrested following "startling disclosures" during preliminary investigations.

However, one diplomat said Western embassies are taking the reports seriously because of official silence and press censorship.

Despite the newspaper report of parliamentary involvement in the Jan. 2 raid, Mr. Sethi told reporters that no military people have undertaken any operations this year.

According to widespread rumours, which all appear based on hearsay, army officers were obtaining weapons from Afghan guerrillas and paying them with bullion.

Another version had army officers taking weapons destined for the Afghan insurgents, shipping them to Lahore and using the bullion to bribe officials along the way.

Still another rumour had at least 20 army officers smuggling weapons across the border into India to aid Sikh militants who paid for the arms in gold and silver bars, which police said weighed 47 kilograms.

Mubarak to visit Morocco

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Morocco for talks on the Middle East situation with King Hassan at the end of his current African tour, Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was quoted as saying Sunday.

The official Middle East News Agency, in a despatch from Mogadishu, quoted Mr. Ali as saying the two-day visit, which he called a turning point in Egyptian-Moroccan relations, was in response to an invitation from the King.

He did not give the exact date of the visit but Mr. Mubarak, currently in Tanzania on the last leg of the four-nation African tour, had been expected back in Cairo on Tuesday.

The visit to Rabat will be Mr. Mubarak's first since he took office following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in October 1981.

Morocco has had no diplomatic relations with Egypt since Cairo

signed its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, but relations between the two countries have recently improved considerably, and senior Egyptian ministers visited Morocco last year.

Diplomatic sources said Egypt's return to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) would be high on the list of issues to be discussed by Mr. Mubarak and King Hassan.

Last week, Egypt accepted an invitation by the 45 member OIC to resume its membership after a five-year suspension, in what was seen here as a diplomatic coup for Mr. Mubarak.

The sources said the two leaders were also likely to discuss Egypt's possible readmission to the Arab

League, from which it was also suspended for making peace with Israel. Arab leaders are due to meet in Saudi Arabia at the end of March.

Signs of a thaw in relations between Egypt and moderate Arab countries followed a dramatic reconciliation trip to Cairo by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in December.

Mr. Mubarak and Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre reached an agreement Saturday on all political, economic and security issues raised during official talks held after Mr. Mubarak's arrival in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, the official Mogadishu Radio reported.

The state-run radio, in a broadcast monitored here, said the meeting was held in a "cordial" atmosphere but gave no further details on matters discussed. Mr. Mubarak flew to Somalia from Kenya for a one-day visit, his third stop on a four-nation tour of Africa.



St. Michael Church, the centre point of fighting between the Lebanese Army and Shi'ite militiamen in Beirut, sits deserted (AP wirephoto)

St. Michael Church battered by war

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — St. Michael's Church, focus of the fiercest fighting since Christmas, is a battered monument to Lebanon's civil war. The Maronite Catholic Church, its tower clock shot away, and the surrounding neighbourhood are now a battleground where Shi'ite Muslim militiamen are fighting the Lebanese army and the Falangists.

They sit on the "green line" that has divided the capital into east and west since the 1975-76 civil war.

On one side of the church is the Galerie Semaan Gateway, one of the three access points between east and west. It was named for a nearby furniture store.

To the east are a half dozen high-rise apartment buildings, also with gaping holes and shell-pocked walls, where Lebanese army soldiers and Falangist militiamen find a limited shelter behind sandbag-blocked windows.

The rest of the area is largely deserted, but from the few apartment buildings several hundred yards back, where families still live, an occasional giggle can be heard and a child sometimes peers from a darkened window.

To west of the church, militiamen of "Amal" — the name of the largest Shi'ite militia — hold positions.

Two key events that helped

start the 1975-76 civil war occurred about 800 metres north of the church.

In the first event, Pierre Gemayel, founder of the Falange Party, survived an assassination attempt while attending a ceremony. Gunmen fired from a passing car, but missed. Several hours later, as Falangist militiamen searched for those who fired the bullets, a bus passed which was filled with Palestinians returning from an outing. The militiamen opened fire on it.

Twenty-eight passengers died. The neighbourhood, the capital and most of the rest of Lebanon has not known much peace since.

Pope calls for urgent truce in Lebanon

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Sunday made an urgent call for a truce in Lebanon, saying "bloody clashes and intense bombardments" have reached unprecedented levels.

"Alarming news fade the hope for a solution that does not resort to violence and abuse," the pontiff said in his weekly angelus.

"Bloody clashes and intense bombardments without interruption in four days, with violence until today never registered, have caused hundreds of deaths and wounded in Beirut, the small city of Zahle and numerous other villages," the pontiff said.

Earlier, during a mass he celebrated along with cardinals and bishops of the Byzantine Rite in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope made a "sorrowful appeal" for peace in Lebanon.

The pope spoke as reports from Lebanon said fighting between the Lebanese army and insurgents had spread to additional areas of Beirut amid a new political crisis.

"With profound distress, our thoughts go to that nation... Martyrised by a cruel civil war, like in the most difficult times of its history," the pope said in his homily in Italian.

"So many times it seemed peace was in effect returning, but instead, there were only brief stops" of the fighting, he added.

Speaking from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul asked more than 25,000 faithfuls to pray so "hope in a future of peace and respect can survive within the hearts of all the Lebanese who sincerely love their country."

The pope said only a "loyal dialogue" between ethnic and religious communities could yield an "effective and stable reconciliation" in Lebanon.

Israel's population reaches 4,140,000

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's population at the end of 1983 was 4,140,000 of whom 3,430,000 or 82.9 per cent were Jews and 710,000 or 17.1 per cent were non-Jews, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The government agency's figures released recently show a population growth of 1.9 per cent, or 78,000 people, compared with a 1.8 per cent growth in 1982.

The Jewish population increased by 58,000 people, or 1.7 per cent, compared with 1982's

1.6 per cent, while the growth in the non-Jewish population declined from three per cent in 1982 to 2.8 per cent, or 20,000 people, the bureau reported.

The statistics also indicate that fertility among Jewish women continued upward — from 2.71 children per woman in 1981 to 2.79 in 1982 and 2.85 in 1983.

In contrast to previous trends, the fertility of non-Jewish women continued to drop — from 5.05 children in 1981 to 4.97 in 1982 and 4.65 children in 1983.

Immigration to Israel increased

from 13,700 in 1982 to 16,000 last year, while 767,000 Israelis went abroad in 1983, an increase of 18 per cent over 1982.

Most Israelis — 90 per cent — live in towns and cities, with 60 per cent of all Israelis in the three metropolitan areas of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa.

The bureau said it had no breakdown of the non-Jewish population and had not yet compiled figures for the population of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where an estimated 1.3 million Palestinians live.

Basra appears calm despite Iranian threats

By Subhy Haddad
Reuters

BASRA — Amid reports here that Iran is preparing for a new offensive against southern Iraq, this port on the Iraqi side of the long-disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway stands outwardly calm but ready for battle.

With its crowded markets full of Iraqi and foreign-produced goods, the city of 500,000 people seems barely troubled by the fact that it lies on the frontline of the 40-month-old Gulf war.

Its restaurants, night-clubs and discos buzz until late at night with a clientele including East and West Europeans, Latin Americans and Asians, mostly employed in development projects.

But anti-aircraft guns and cement bag-trenches are spread along the Shatt Al Arab, where dozens of foreign merchant vessels have been trapped since the outbreak of the war.

Basra was a prime target during one of Iran's biggest offensives in July 1982 and has come under frequent artillery shelling since.

At its headquarters near here, the commander of the 100,000-strong Third Army Corps, Major-General Maher Abed Al Rashid, told reporters that Iran was mobilising troops to attack southern Iraq.

He said Iran had moved up three Revolutionary Guard divisions to support regular army troops for the planned attack, of which Basra was a possible main target.

Iraqi intelligence reports indicated Iran had already named the offensive "Tahrik Al Quds" (liberation of Jerusalem) and "Labbaik Ya-Khomeini" (here I am at your service, Khomeini).

Reporters taken to the southern front last week saw long columns of Iraqi troops and war machinery heading for the front 20 kilometres from Basra.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad said in November that a floating terminal using buoys was being built to replace the old Faw Oil Terminal 100 kilometres south of Basra.

Cheysson arrives in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson arrived in Tripoli Saturday for meetings with government officials including Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the official Libyan News Agency JANA reported.

JANA disclosed no details of Mr. Cheysson's visit, the last leg of a North African tour to discuss ways to try and end the almost continuous 19-month civil war in Chad. The foreign minister did not issue an independent statement upon his arrival.

Mr. Cheysson, who earlier this week visited Ethiopia and Chad, called Friday for a mutual withdrawal of French and Libyan forces backing opposing sides in the war.

3,000 French paratroopers were airlifted into Chad last year, following a thrust by Chadian rebels backed by regular Libyan army units who captured the northern half of the country.

After the downing last week of a French jet fighter in which the pilot was killed, the French retaliated by expanding their area of control and telling their troops to

fire "without warning" on any "hostile elements."

In Ethiopia, Mr. Cheysson met with officials from the Organisation of African Unity which sponsored an unsuccessful mediation effort last month in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

The mediation efforts failed when Chad's President Hissene Habre refused to participate, claiming that the Libyan-backed rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei was being given head of state treatment by the regional body and the Ethiopian leader.

Mr. Cheysson was scheduled to remain in Libya through Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti met with Libya's leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi for talks on bilateral issues, the official Libyan News Agency JANA reported.

JANA said Mr. Andreotti met earlier with commander Abdul Salam Jalloud, Col. Qadhafi's second in command, for three hours of talks shortly after his arrival in the Libyan capital for an official two-day visit.

Reagan urges support for Lebanon policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Saturday the Lebanese government was gaining support and he urged opposition Democrats to support his policies rather than moving to "cut and run" by seeking the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut.

Mr. Reagan, in his weekly national radio address, also asked Democrats to support efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit and to increase U.S. aid to Central America.

Many leading congressional Democrats have called for the removal of the Marines from the

Multinational Force in Beirut. "Support for the government (of President Amin Gemayel) is broadening among the different groups and just as important, our efforts to strengthen the Lebanese army and its ability to keep the peace are making sure and steady progress," Mr. Reagan said.

The president said: "The situation in Lebanon is difficult, frustrating and dangerous, but that is no reason to turn our backs on friends and to cut and run."

"If we do, we'll be sending one signal to terrorists everywhere:

They can gain by waging war against innocent people," he said.

A vote on a Democratic resolution calling for the withdrawal of the Marines is expected soon in the House of Representatives. White House spokesmen have said such efforts aided the Syrians and other groups opposed to a peaceful settlement in Lebanon.

The broadcast was paid for by the Republican National Committee because Mr. Reagan is a candidate for re-election. Radio networks had previously been carrying the broadcasts free.

Lebanon: Reagan's foreign policy timebomb

By R. Gregory Nokes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The death of another American Marine in Lebanon within 24 hours after President Ronald Reagan announced his bid for re-election has underscored the potential weakness of the president's foreign policy record for his candidacy.

Polls show Mr. Reagan's approval rating on foreign policy to be declining once again after receiving a boost from the invasion of Grenada in October. Ratings on his overall performance remain favourable.

The Marine presence in Lebanon is the big problem at the moment, Mr. Reagan's advisers are painfully aware. "It will become a tremendous political liability if it continues," said Senator Alan K. Simpson, a conservative Republican from Wyoming, who has swung from support to opposition on the issue.

Richard Wirthlin, Mr. Reagan's chief pollster, said Tuesday that "looking at the Lebanon issue strictly through the prism of politics, we would feel somewhat relieved if the Marines were not there."

The latest poll conducted by the New York Times and the CBS Television Network shows Americans evenly divided on whether Mr. Reagan is doing a good job in foreign affairs, while 49 per cent of respondents want the Marines

withdrawn from Lebanon, compared to 38 per cent who favour keeping them there.

Mr. Wirthlin told reporters that between 25 and 28 per cent of Americans think Mr. Reagan is likely to get the United States into an unnecessary war. He said he was not alarmed because the figure was approximately the same as when former President Jimmy Carter tried to portray Mr. Reagan as prone to take military action during the 1980 campaign.

But he said foreign policy issues are more on peoples' minds because economic issues have become less pressing as the economy has improved.

Although Mr. Reagan insists he won't withdraw the Marines to score points with American voters — a position endorsed by Mr. Wirthlin — senior State Department officials predict a way will be found to bring them home by early summer.

Lebanon isn't the only foreign policy problem for Mr. Reagan. Americans clearly also are nervous about the breakdown in arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union and the administration's involvement in Central America continues to raise questions.

Mr. Reagan and other administration officials are seeking to present Mr. Reagan as a man of peace in advance of the election by stressing his willingness to resume negotiations with the Soviets. Mr.

Reagan said virtually nothing about Central America in his State of the Union address.

The record shows that Mr. Reagan has, on the surface at least, few foreign policy successes going into the fourth year of his presidency, compared to Mr. Carter at the same point in his White House term.

Mr. Carter could point to the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty, the 1978 Camp David accords, the framework of the SALT II arms control pact with the Soviets, the 1979 formal normalisation of relations with mainland China, and the 1977 agreement in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to deploy intermediate range missiles in Europe.

Mr. Reagan has not concluded a major treaty in his first three years or successfully concluded a major international agreement.

Mr. Reagan received high marks generally from the American public for his 1983 midwest peace initiative, but it hasn't worked. The 1983 Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement was widely hailed as a success, but it hasn't worked either.

More fighting seems likely in Central America, where the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador is in a stand-off in its war against leftist guerrillas despite large-scale American aid and the presence of a handful of American military advisors.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:30	Koran
17:45	Children's Programme
18:00	Documentary: Colorado River
18:15	Programme review
18:30	Local Programme on Armed Forces
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Classical Music Case
22:15	Arabic Variety Programme
22:30	News in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
19:00	French Programme
19:30	News in French
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:30	Comedy: Buffalo Bill
21:00	Towards 2000
21:30	Documentary: Fake
22:00	News in English
22:15	Hart to Hart
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM	& party on 95.60 KHz, SW
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsday
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show
10:00	Pop Session
11:00	News Summary
12:00	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Over a Cup of Tea
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Classical Show Case
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Sports Round-up
19:00	Arabic Nights
19:30	Newsday
19:45	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:30	News Summary
22:00	News Summary
22:30	News Summary
23:00	News Summary
24:00	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery.	
* Pablo Picasso paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.	
FILM	
* Programme starts at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.	
* French video programme starts at 4:30 p.m. at French Cultural Centre.	
VIDEO	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 661 0267	
American Centre - 44371	
British Council - 361 47-8	
French Cultural Centre - 37009	
Soviet Cultural Centre - 44203	
Spanish Cultural Centre - 24019	
Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777	
Haya Arts Centre - 665195	
Hassan Youth City - 667181	
Y.W.C.A. - 41793	
W.M.A. - 664251	
Amman Municipal Library - 36111	
University of Jordan Library - 843555	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 661 0267	
American Centre - 44371	
British Council - 361 47-8	
French Cultural Centre - 37009	
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Y.W.C.A. - 41793	
W.M.A. - 664251	
Amman Municipal Library - 36111	
University of Jordan Library - 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Kolbi Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from the Muslim countries and a	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Lubdeh, 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hinnia, 661757.	
Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox): Abadi, 23541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Red-crocer): Jabal Amman, 41550.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeit, 663249.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:01	Fajr
06:27	(Sunrise) Shuruq
11:50	Dhuhr
14:51	'Asr
17:14	Maghreb
18:30	'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia Int. Corporation dependent on the Charters Airline International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:00	Cairo (EA)
07:15	Adana (RJ)
07:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:45	Jeddah (RJ)
08:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
08:15	Beirut (RJ)
08:30	Cairo (RJ)
08:45	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:30	Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
14:00	Moscow (SU)
14:45	Kuwait (KAC)
15:00	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
15:30	Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
16:30	Bangkok (JA)
17:00	Baghdad (IA)
17:15	Albans (RJ)
17:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30	Tunis, Cairo (TU)
18:45	Beirut (ME)
19:00	Cairo (EA)
20:15	Tunis, Cairo (TU)
20:40	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
20:45	Cairo (RJ)
06:45	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
06:45	Cairo (RJ)
06:30	Beirut (RJ)
06:45	Adana (RJ)
06:50	Cairo (RJ)
07:00	Athens (OA)
07:15	Damascus, Geneva, Zurich (SR)
08:00	Adana (RJ)
11:00	Vladivostok, New York (SU)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
12:15	Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30	Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
13:00	Abadan, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GP)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
15:00	Moscow (SU)
15:45	Kuwait (KAC)
16:30	Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
16:45	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
18:00	Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (SU)
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Local sell/buy rates in Jds	
Belgian franc	119.6 / 120.3
French franc	320.6 / 325
Italian lire (for 100)	43.9 / 44.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	369 / 375
Kuwaiti dirham	22 / 22.3
Lebanese lira	127.3 / 127.8
Omani rial	63.8 / 64.8
Qatari riyal	1078.3 / 1085
Saudi riyal	102.5 / 103
Saudi riyal	106.9 / 107.4
Swiss franc	46.1 / 46.4
Syrian lira	167.9 / 168.9
UAE dirham	54.8 / 55.7
U.K. sterling pound	101.8 / 102.5
U.S. dollar	328.9

King assures Regent of his good health

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday night contacted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, from Cleveland, Ohio, where he arrived Friday for medical check-ups, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The King assured the Regent of his health and asked him to convey his greetings to the Jordanian people, Petra said.

The King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, arrived at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Friday and was immediately admitted to the clinic for medical check-ups. The King is suffering from a stomach ulcer which compelled him to be hospitalized for a few days earlier this month.

On Saturday the King also telephoned Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Petra said. During the telephone conversation Mr. 'Obeidat conveyed to King Hussein the Jordanian people's good wishes and hopes for the King's safe return home, the agency added.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat (far right) Saturday receives here Yugoslav Defence Minister Branko Mamola (to his right) who is currently on a four day visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Family book issue figures released

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Registration Department has issued a total of 7,462 family books between Jan. 28 and Feb. 3. Most of the family books were issued in connection with the forthcoming by-election. In the rural areas of the Amman Governorate, the department issued 890 books. 257 in Karak, 1,407 in Irbid, 542 in Balqa, 3,415 books in greater Amman, 535 in Amman city centre, as well as 416 to citizens from the West Bank.

Railway team to leave for India

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat has agreed the dispatch of a team from the Aqaba Railway Corporation to India to hold talks with Indian railway officials on the recruitment of technicians and specialists to work for the corporation. The delegation, led by corporation's Director-General Sahel Hamza, will leave for India this month.

Tobacco farmers centre opened

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) Director-General Hassan Nabulsi opened Sunday a centre for the Tobacco Farmers Society at Khirbet Al Suk to the south of here. The centre comprises offices, conference room, and 10 stores.

ASMO to participate in Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO) will take part in a meeting of the statistics and documentation committee which starts Monday in Tunisia. The three-day meeting will discuss many topics the major one of which is the setting up of a national Arab information network as well as Arabising computers.

Exhibition to show chemistry experiments

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of chemical experiments by chemistry students at the University of Jordan will open at the Faculty of Science Monday. The four-day exhibition displays scientific and practical experiments covering subjects studied by students in the secondary stage of schooling particularly in the third secondary class.

'Obeidat sees Yugoslav defence chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat conferred in his office Sunday with Yugoslav Defence Minister Branko Mamola during which they reviewed Jordanian-Yugoslav relations.

The meeting was attended by Yugoslav ambassador to Jordan Todor Bojadgavski and the army chief of staff's assistant for operations.

Irbid-Jerash highway at design stage, says Nijm

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm said Sunday that his ministry is currently preparing designs for the new Irbid-Jerash road and that a tender for this road will be floated at the beginning of next year.

This decision was taken at a meeting chaired by the minister at the Irbid public works department. It was attended by a number of the ministry and the department officials.

During the meeting, Mr. Nijm called on officials to define project priorities with the participation of provincial governors.

The minister also pointed out that training courses will be held in the field of road maintenance, asphalt, the uses of concrete and material analysis.

The minister was later briefed by the director of the Irbid public works department on its present projects, future plans as well as the problems impeding its current work.

Bashir: New agricultural marketing company close to being operational

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mohammad Al Bashir, held an informal meeting with journalists at the ministry Sunday at which he mentioned that the Agricultural Processing and Marketing Company, a joint venture between the government and private enterprise, will become operational in the near future.

It will then further investigate the possibility of exporting Jordanian produce to the European Community countries following a trial shipment of vegetables earlier this month.

Dr. Bashir also said that the Ministry of Agriculture is currently planting trees from Romania along the highway to the Queen Alia International Airport.

Later, Dr. Bashir attended a tree planting celebration along the right hand verge of the road. They consisted of 1,800 fruit and forest trees which came as a gift to Jordan from the Romanian government.



Mohammad Bashir

dan from the Romanian government.

Taking part in the celebration were Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi, senior ministry officials and Roman-

ania's Ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencovici.

In a speech at the site of the celebration the minister expressed appreciation for the Romanian gift. The ambassador also spoke stressing his government's keenness to promote its ties with Jordan in the political, cultural, social and agricultural fields.

The gift, which was made upon a decision by the Romanian cabinet, represents a symbol of friendship that binds Jordan and Romania together, the ambassador said.

He said that Romania looks with admiration at Jordan's great achievements in agriculture and at its aim to ensure sufficient foodstuffs for its citizens.

According to the minister, Jordan has received another batch of trees from the Turkish government which have been planted along both sides of the same road to the airport.

Parliament to choose new Nablus deputy 'Obeidat to comment on bridge travel restrictions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is due to hold a session Monday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Akef Al Fayed. At the session, which will be attended by members of the cabinet, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat is expected to deliver a speech clarifying the government procedures concerning travel across the bridges of the Jordan River from and to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which were issued last April.

At Monday's session the government is expected to refer to the house at least 10 draft laws including amendments to the income tax and the traffic laws.

Also during Monday's session the deputies will elect a member to represent Nablus region following a recent decision to disqualify one of the members, Abdul Karim Mfadhli, who represented the Nablus constituency on the grounds that he is a convicted felon.

According to a recent amendment to parliament law, the present members of parliament have the right to elect members to represent the West Bank.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Suleiman Arar has announced February 16 as the date on which prospective members running for the East Bank by-elections, due to be held on March 12 will be able to nominate themselves.

Candidates have only five days to declare their intention to stand in accordance with the electoral regulations.

Ministry of Interior Under-Secretary Ahmad Al Aqileh said that registration committees have now posted the lists of eligible voters at the voting centres in the governorates concerned.

Those wishing to challenge the lists or names contained on them are allowed three days to do so through the courts. Mr. Aqileh said.

Ajlouni to boost Karak health service

KARAK (Petra) — Health Minister Kamel Al Ajlouni said here Sunday that his ministry will promote health and medical services in Karak Governorate and will provide a doctor to be on duty 24 hours a day in each centre.

The ministry will also open a health centre at the village of Ider as soon as a suitable building is provided by the municipality, Dr. Ajlouni said.

The minister was speaking during an inspection of health services and the government hospital in the Karak Governorate where he was briefed on the various needs in this field.

Dr. Ajlouni called on all centres to give due care to emergency cases and to arrange for doctors to be present at all times.

He also discussed with heads of municipal councils co-operation between the ministry and their municipalities in building health centres and ways of promoting medical services in the region.

Dr. Ajlouni was accompanied on the tour by several aides and the Karak health director.

have the right to elect members to represent the West Bank.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Suleiman Arar has announced February 16 as the date on which prospective members running for the East Bank by-elections, due to be held on March 12 will be able to nominate themselves.

Candidates have only five days to declare their intention to stand in accordance with the electoral regulations.

Ministry of Interior Under-Secretary Ahmad Al Aqileh said that registration committees have now posted the lists of eligible voters at the voting centres in the governorates concerned.

Those wishing to challenge the lists or names contained on them are allowed three days to do so through the courts. Mr. Aqileh said.

Tawjihi marks expected end of February

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has almost completed marking the examination papers of some 48,000 students who took the first session of the General Secondary Certificate (Tawjihi) examinations last month.

According to Dr. Ahmad Al Bashir, director of examinations at the ministry, most teachers committees entrusted with marking the examination papers have completed their work and the figures will now be fed into computers to get the final results.

The results will be issued to the students via the schools towards the end of February, Dr. Bashir said.

Students who have now resumed their studies in the second term of the current scholastic year, will have to sit for another examination session early in June.

Mapmakers graduate today

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony for the graduation of the fifth and sixth classes of the Jordan National Geographic Centre (JNGC) will be held in Amman Monday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

During the ceremony, which will be attended by senior officials, the JNGC director and French team of cartographers, the graduates will be presented with their diplomas.

The JNGC was established towards the end of 1975 and is one of the few Arab institutions which offers training in cartography and surveying employing modern scientific methods.

The centre makes maps of Jordan which carry various details about agriculture, population, water, electricity and roads.

Nose to tail collision damages six vehicles

AMMAN (J.T.) — Six cars were badly damaged but no casualties were reported in an accident that occurred on the University of Jordan road Saturday evening.

The cars, all of which were travelling towards Amman from the university, had to brake hard when the first car in the line stopped suddenly. However the five following were unable to stop in time and crashed into the back of one another.

The traffic policeman who came to the scene blamed the other five drivers involved for not leaving enough space between themselves and the cars in front and for travelling too fast.



Three of the six cars damaged when they ran into the backs of each other here late Saturday (Petra photo)

Jordan attends tourist display

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in the three-day international tourism exhibition which was held in Washington D.C. More than twenty countries took part in the exhibition.

Head of the Jordanian pavilion Adli Al Dajani said that the number of people who visited it exceeded 30,000, including the mayor of Washington.

Tourist booklets and pamphlets displaying Jordan's historical sites were distributed.

Agricultural policy at the centre of parliamentary debate

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The importance of developing agriculture was the focus of most of the 24 speeches by members of the Lower House of Parliament during a debate on the policy statement of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat's cabinet last Thursday.

The house members who gave their confidence to the cabinet, also called for an assessment of Jordan's educational and information policies.

In general, the speakers supported Mr. 'Obeidat's government objectives, as outlined in its policy statement, to exert all efforts to develop and improve agriculture.

In fact, the issue of agricultural development dominated many of the sessions of the dissolved National Consultative Council (NCC) last year, a detailed and comprehensive set of recommendations on ways to develop the agricultural sector were submitted to the government at the end of lengthy discussions by the NCC on agricultural policy.

Members of the restored Lower House, however, seized the opportunity to raise agricultural problems and suggestions especially where related to their constituencies.

Insufficient funds

Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh from Karak brought up the question of insufficient funds for agriculture.

Mr. Tarawneh said that farmers in the south are burdened with heavy debts due to the high-interest loans issued by agricultural financing institutions.

He explained that farmers in the south are unable to pay back the loans because of three reasons. First, they are unable to find a marketing outlet for their agricultural products; second, the interest rates are very high, and third, farmers are granted only short-term loans.

Mr. Tarawneh, who has represented Karak, in the parliament for the last 20 years, said that he had called on many previous governments to provide farmers with low-interest, long-term loans and to secure the marketing of their products but to no avail.

"We have presented our sug-

gestions to many previous governments, to which we have successfully granted our vote of confidence, but to no avail," he said.

Mr. Tarawneh was one of two members who voted against giving confidence to Mr. 'Obeidat's government.

He also called for the increasing of funds allocated for the Jordanian Agricultural Association.

Rural roads

Mr. Mifleh Odat Allah, from the northern governorate of Madaba, stressed the need to build roads between villages and cities to facilitate the transportation of agricultural goods and to cut down on expenses.

"Building roads between villages and towns will help the marketing of agricultural output thus contributing to the curbing of labour migration from rural areas to the cities," he said.

Representative Atti Abul 'Izz from Ma'an suggested the formation of a special authority for the reclamation of desert land in Jordan.

Mr. Youssef Al Adem, who was the second member that voted against Mr. 'Obeidat's cabinet, asked for the distribution of the land that surrounds Ma'an among its people.

Representatives of the bedouin tribes also had their specific suggestions concerning agriculture. Mr. Faisal Ibn Jazi, who represents the southern bedouins, suggested that the government conduct a survey of tribal lands in his area in order to avoid future inter-tribal conflicts over the ownership of land in the future.

He also requested government financial support for the owners among bedouin tribes.

The deputy for the Israeli West Bank occupied town of Nablus, Hifzi Milhis, brought up another aspect of agricultural development.

Agricultural schools

Mr. Milhis said that there is an urgent need to increase agricultural schools and colleges and to allow girls to attend such schools. Jordanian girls can study agriculture at the Jordanian universities but they do not enroll at agricultural technical colleges.

Mr. Milhis said that more agricultural research needs to be car-

ried out to improve the quality of the output.

Education and information

Educational and information policies were also touched upon by several members who basically endorsed the government's policies concerning these two fields.

According to the cabinet's policy statement the government will concentrate on a clearly planned policy for educational and information institutions to guarantee the deepening of feelings of national commitment and belonging.

Mr. Adem, who praised Jordan's educational system, said that certain improvements should be made to enable the system to achieve its primary aim.

According to Mr. Adem, the main aim of the educational system is to raise generations who are aware of the challenges that their country faces, particularly the Israeli threat.

He suggested that the country needs more universities to accommodate the increasing number of Jordanians who seek higher education.

"A large number of our students are studying abroad," he said, "therefore if we have more universities, it will help absorb more students and will cut the expense that Jordanians spend on education abroad."

Expressing strong support for the government's objective of expanding education while mai-

ntaining high standards, the deputy of Madaba, Mifleh Odat Allah, noted that many Jordanian villages lack specialised teachers.

Mr. Abul 'Izz called for an educational system that combines the best aspects of modernisation but that preserves our culture and heritage.

Unemployed doctors

Dr. Yacoub Moamar from Irbid brought to light a very serious problem related to education, the rate of unemployment facing doctors in Jordan.

He pointed out that many young doctors are faced with disappointment upon their return to Jordan after graduation as they find themselves jobless.

He attributed the cause of the problem to a lack of educational planning that helps regulate the proportion of vocational specialisation in accordance with the country's social needs.

"As it is not the fault of these young doctors who are losing out," he said, the government should move to secure jobs for them.

Deputies hailed the cabinet's information policies, as stated in the policy statement, which aim to achieve the wider involvement of citizens in vital issues.

'Trivial television'

Three deputies, however, cri-

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Lebanon suffers setback

THE resignation of Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan's government, and President Amin Gemayel's acceptance of the resignation on Sunday, is a natural outcome of the unnatural circumstances engulfing Lebanon these days. But it is also an ominous sign of the troubled times that lie ahead.

Reports from Beirut suggesting that the Lebanese president is considering setting up a military council to run the country until a civilian government could be formed strongly indicate that the situation in strife-torn Lebanon is taking a dangerous turn, especially that efforts begun in Geneva last year and aimed at a Lebanese reconciliation have all failed.

The latest political developments in Lebanon have coincided with a worsening security situation in and around Beirut, to the extent that the Lebanese army on Sunday had to surrender without opposition much of the main road leading to the U.S. Marine base at the International Airport. With Nabih Berri, leader of the powerful Shi'ite "Amal" militias, ruling out negotiations with the government, "so long as the (Lebanese) president is riding on his guns," and calling on soldiers to disobey orders and join his group, the situation in Lebanon is fast becoming very difficult to control.

On the periphery but always involved, Syria, Israel and the U.S. must be watching events on the ground with great concern. But with tension escalating to new heights, foreign involvement in Lebanon is also likely to mount. This is where the biggest danger lies.

Israel may not be in a position now where it could influence events north of the Awali line; it is hardly managing to keep the occupied south under control.

The U.S. risks a Vietnam-like involvement if the situation so deteriorates that is necessary for Washington to send in more troops and take on the fighters in southern Beirut and in the Shouf; and, given the mood in Washington, this is unlikely to happen but the possibility is there. As for the Syrians, everything is up in the air, it seems: The Gemayel government will not—or is not able to—negotiate with its rivals and abrogate the May 17 withdrawal agreement with Israel; the U.S. will not seriously negotiate with Damascus and will not hedge on the Lebanese-Israeli accord; and Israel is not in the reckoning so long as that state is not interested in waging war against Syria; so, let Beirut and Washington do what they can, Syria is apparently willing to take them on.

To many, the situation in Lebanon today may be reminiscent of that prevailing many months ago except perhaps in that the military situation has deteriorated a little bit and the opposing factions are less willing to talk, and therefore there should not be too much worry about it. But in fact it is not, and such developments as Lebanon saw yesterday could only be extremely dangerous to the very existence of all Lebanese. Something has got to be done to avert a catastrophe soon.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Dialogue only route to peace

LEBANON SEEMS to have entered the most crucial hours that will determine its destiny, with the dramatic escalation of the fighting among its various factions. The country is now witnessing a new massacre in which the Lebanese will slaughter one another in a ruthless manner, while U.S. Marines and the Israeli forces stand by and watch the fruit of their conspiracies dropping into their lap. Both the U.S. administration and the Israeli government were instrumental in aborting efforts aimed at arriving at national reconciliation among the Lebanese combatants and their leaders as they pushed the opponents to the brink of another all-out civil war.

The Lebanese government holds the key to the solution. It can abrogate its unilateral agreement with Israel because that agreement is the bone of contention between the Beirut government and the Progressive Socialist Party. The Lebanese government has the responsibility for opening a peace initiative and should try to start a dialogue with its opponents with the purpose of arriving at an acceptable formula to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Al Dustour: Civil war looks imminent

LEBANON NOW looks set for another civil war, with all factions gearing up to the coming battle supported by external powers which will provide them with their weapons. We watch with pain and frustration the new developments on the Lebanese scene at a time when the Arab states are doing nothing to prevent further massacres. If another war flares up, external forces will be active again and will use the protagonists to serve their own purposes.

Observers note that the Lebanese government is keen to involve one of the superpowers in the fray as a way to stem the influence of its enemies in the region, and they also note that the opposing factions continue to escalate media campaigns against one another. These two elements are bringing the factions nearer to war everyday. If the Lebanese are involved in another war, they themselves will be the losers and their enemies, the winners. The leaders of the warring groups should return to their senses and prevent more bloodshed.

Sawt Al Shaab: Beirut rulers are wrong

THE WAR in Lebanon involves a struggle of political interests and those involved in it want to make gains for themselves, and not for the country as a whole. The Shi'ite and the Druze are trying to secure more political clout and are exploiting their alliance with Syria to achieve their ends. They also want to weaken the Beirut government and their opponent the Falangist party. For its part, the Beirut government is relying on its alliance with the United States to build up a strong army to crush its opponents.

Recently the leaders of the warring factions have escalated their war by radio in a manner that indicates that there is no chance of ever holding a reconciliation conference to end the crisis. So observers do not expect any reconciliation to be forthcoming at all and indeed they think that the country is now in for another round of civil war and more bloodshed. The Lebanese government in its drive to impose by force its hegemony on all the parties and factions is wrong because the other parties and sects are only seeking more balanced political and social gains, something that could be settled through negotiations.

Tyre: Hard times, resistance to Israeli occupation

By Ethan Bronner
 Reuter

TYRE — Breakfast at the Elissa beach hotel is graciously served in a vast dining room by a waiter in a pin-striped suit. But the beds are without sheets, the rooms lack heat and there are no other guests. Hundreds of high-priced Mercedes cars stream through the roads, but there are no traffic lights and the potholes are big and filled with putrid water.

The shops are packed with French champagne, Swiss chocolate and Japanese gadgetry, but down the road people live without plumbing. Everyone's telephone is out of order.

Welcome to Tyre, where the mayor has been dead for nearly a year and no one has felt the need to replace him, where the buildings are either bombed or broken or new and half-built, where portraits of Jesus Christ decorate the living rooms of Muslim families, where there is no economy but lots of money.

This South Lebanese port of dizzying contradictions, founded occupation just as it did Palestinian presence for the decade before Israel's invasion in June, 1982.

It is a town that is used to change. Originally an island, it was pummeled by Alexander the

Great, destroyed by barbarians, conquered by the crusaders. Tyre, a town of glorious Roman ruins, is today a miasma of mud puddles, exposed piping and precariously positioned concrete chunks.

"We're survivors," smiles Nasib Basma, as he sips coffee in his luxuriously stocked food shop. "People started building the week after the Israeli invasion."

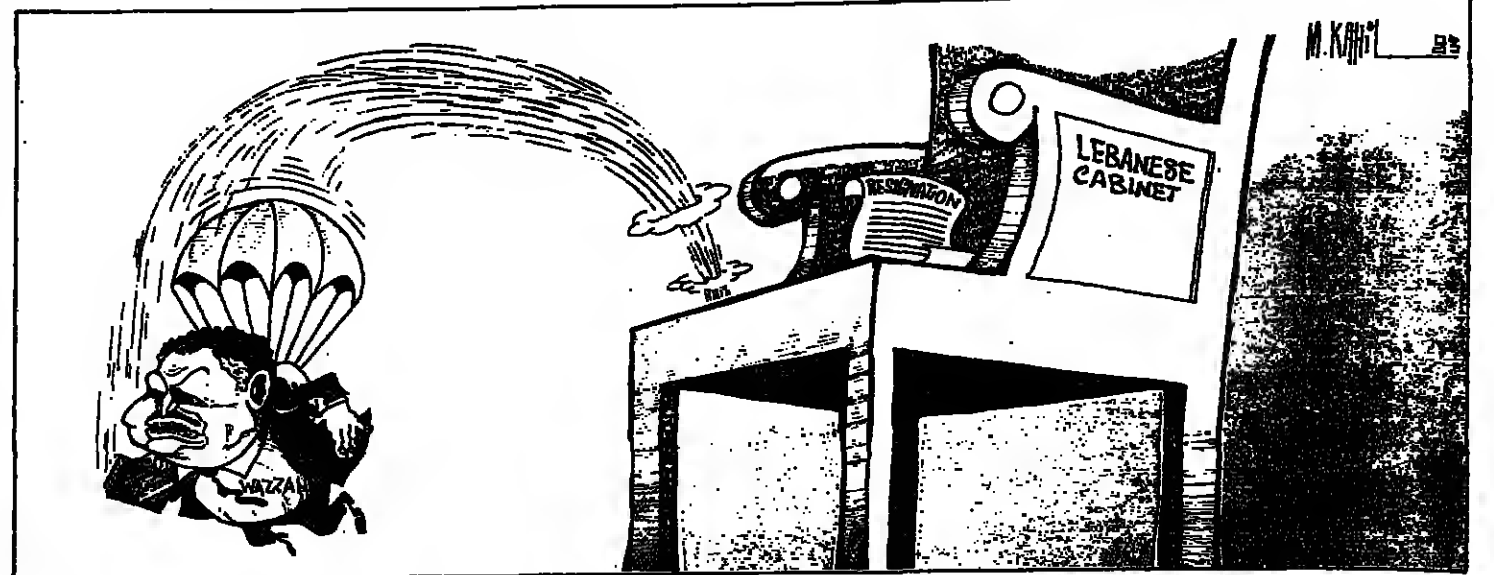
The Israelis occupied the central administration building in Sidon, to the north, and though they recently evacuated it they have refused to allow the Lebanese officials back in. Governor Halim Fayyad said.

"So people are rushing to build where they might not otherwise be allowed," says Mr. Khalin, nephew of the late mayor.

Exactly who is in charge in Tyre is a question that seems to bother few locals. It appears to be taken for granted that the various militias and armies — local, foreign and international — will somehow work it out.

But for a visitor the question takes on an urgency even before he sets foot in town. Fully-armed soldiers man dozens of checkpoints.

Coming from the south, a visitor's first encounter is with the United Nations forces, his second with the Israelis, then with the Israeli-funded soldiers of the deposed Lebanese Major Sa'ad



Haddad and finally with a Shi'ite militia group also funded by Israel known as the "Army Supporters." Long-time residents and knowledgeable taxi drivers can usually get by with a wave and smile. But laden lorries can take hours to go a few kilometers.

Tyre, a town of some 75,000, is largely made up of Shi'ite Muslims. It is the Shi'ite militants from neighbouring villages who are believed to be involved with the violent resistance to the Israeli army and this area is undergoing a spi-

raling cycle of reprisals and counter-reprisals.

Oranges rot in their groves as exports have tumbled off due largely to the occupation, which has imposed restrictions on movements of both goods and people to the north. There is little else that might be called the makings of an economy.

Yet, locals say, money is pouring in, partly from Beirut residents who consider the South more peaceful and partly from Lebanese currently in West Africa

who plan to return.

And despite the often rigid confessional distinctions in other parts of Lebanon, Shi'ites, Sunni and Christians live in harmony in Tyre.

They eat together, drink together and do business together. Their allegiances are even occasionally allowed to blur, making things confusing for the various occupiers.

Jamal, a Sunni Muslim taxi driver, says the picture of Christ in his sitting room, "it's just always been

there," he said.

Despite the upbeat, relaxed emphasis of many residents on the good life, danger and tragedy still hang heavily in the air.

Mohammed Alawi, a retired Sunni fisherman, spends his evenings looking at a photo of his 26-year-old son, Ahmed, who was held prisoner in the Israeli military compound destroyed by a suicide bomb in November. Ahmed, who had been cleared and was due for release two days later, was mortally wounded.

NATO rules out early progress in conventional forces talks

By Paul Taylor
 Reuter

BRUSSELS — East-West talks on cutting conventional forces in Central Europe, set to resume next month, show no prospect of early progress, according to NATO experts.

"They are going nowhere slowly," one said.

Moscow let the Vienna talks between 19 NATO and Warsaw Pact states on "Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions" (MBFR) lapse last December in protest at the siting of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe.

It recently accepted a March 16 resumption, raising hopes in some quarters of a breakthrough in the deadlocked negotiations which have dragged on for almost 11 years. But NATO specialists say such hopes are unfounded, for many reasons.

The central obstacle is data. The West alleges Moscow is lying about the number of troops it has in Central Europe. The discrepancy between the two sides' figures for Warsaw Pact strength is around 180,000 men.

"And even if the data dispute were somehow to be solved miraculously overnight, we would still be a long way from a treaty," a senior NATO expert said.

NATO diplomats expect a prolonged, dull stalemate in Vienna. They say that while both the United States and the Soviet Union have an interest in keeping the talks going, arguably neither has a real interest in a treaty.

When the Vienna negotiations began in 1973, in the heyday of East-West détente, U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield was trying to force the unilateral withdrawal of some U.S. troops from Europe.

Diplomats argue that continuing the talks heads off con-

gressional pressure to "bring the boys home" and enables both superpowers to show willing to their European allies.

"It helps both sides to keep their Germanies quiet," one said, referring to NATO member West Germany and Communist East Germany.

But the diplomats say Moscow has little reason to give up its numerical superiority in Central Europe and the U.S. has growing reservations about accepting any ceiling on its troop presence in the area.

U.S. interests have changed during the meandering course of the negotiations, they say.

At the outset, the U.S. insisted that departing forces must take their heavy equipment with them. Moscow refused. Now, Washington is less enthusiastic about equipment withdrawals.

Diplomats say this is because the recently-created U.S. Rapid

Deployment Force, designed for intervention in the Middle East, would probably need to transit through Central Europe and pick up pre-positioned equipment there.

Armoured vehicles, heavy weapons and equipment have been stored in dumps in West Germany for four U.S.-based divisions earmarked to reinforce NATO in a European crisis.

Some specialists think Moscow may be tempted to wait for a falling birth rate, especially in West Germany, to reduce Western troops strength by natural wastage in the 1980s.

The main incentive for reductions is the enormous cost to both NATO and Warsaw Pact countries of keeping large standing armies in Central Europe.

The only faint glimmer of hope for progress in Vienna is on the issue of how to verify that any agreement to remove troops is res-

pected, diplomats say.

After years of resisting on-site inspections, Warsaw Pact countries last year proposed a system of entry and exit points which went some way towards meeting Western demands.

Some NATO states, notably West Germany and the Netherlands, saw this as a significant advance and wanted the alliance to reciprocate with a new position of its own.

Others, such as the U.S. and Britain, were much less enthusiastic and saw the Warsaw Pact text as vague and full of loopholes.

NATO ministers compromised in December, agreeing to review the Western position but with no commitment to change it. NATO officials say there is no chance of the review being completed before the Vienna talks resume.

They say Washington has not made up its mind and competing

officials are trying to influence the administration's decision by leaking their views to the press.

Alarmed diplomats who rang the U.S. NATO mission to ask about a newspaper report that President Reagan had decided not to change the Western position, said they were told: "We'd love to help you but we really don't know."

NATO and the Warsaw Pact agree in principle that each side should reduce its troops in Central Europe to 500,000 men, but most NATO officials feel there can be no deal as long as Moscow refuse to budge on the present Warsaw Pact force figures.

Some Western officials say a face-saving compromise could be found to allow the Kremlin quietly to remove the troops which it does not admit are there. But they see little hope that Moscow would accept such an arrangement.

Handling of the 'Kiessling affair' shakes Kohl's public image

By Ralph Boulton
 Reuter

BONN — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's handling of the "Kiessling affair" has averted any immediate threat of a cabinet crisis but increased doubts about his style of leadership, diplomats and press commentators said Thursday.

Mr. Kohl reinstated sacked four-star General Guenter Kiessling Wednesday in a bid to end a scandal that has wracked the armed forces and government. But he rejected the resignation of Defence Minister Manfred Woerner who admits making mistakes in handling the general's dismissal.

Newspapers lambasted Mr. Kohl's action, accusing him of "political cynicism" and ineptitude. Only the conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine gave him full backing.

The chancellor's loyalty to Mr.

Woerner, who fired Gen. Kiessling in December on the basis of a now-discredited intelligence report that he mixed with homosexuals, surprised diplomats who had long expected the minister's resignation.

"Clearly, Mr. Kohl saw this as the better of two evils. The removal of Mr. Woerner could have exposed him to right-wing pressure for a cabinet reshuffle, which he wanted to avoid at any cost," one diplomat said.

He said Mr. Kohl might have been forced to sack Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff, who has been charged with corruption, if Mr. Woerner had stepped down.

This would have given the Christian Social Union (CSU), led by Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, a chance to boost its role in the cabinet at the expense of Mr. Lambsdorff's Liberal Free Democrats (FDP).

Differences between the two

parties have strained the coalition since its formation 15 months ago. But Mr. Kohl has skillfully maintained his chosen political balance.

The CSU Thursday refused any comment on the chancellor's ruling, suggesting that Mr. Kohl had, at least temporarily, ensured order in his cabinet. But CSU officials said privately they were unhappy about the chancellor's handling of the issue.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung commented in a harsh editorial: "Strauss has now been reduced to the status of a paper tiger... of course, this is an overwhelming victory — a victory of pure power over political responsibility."

Mr. Kohl faces another crucial test this spring when magistrates decide whether to try Count Lambsdorff on charges that he accepted bribes from the giant Flick industrial concern. The chancellor has told his minister he must go if brought to trial.

Many newspapers and diplomats see Mr. Kohl's handling of the Lambsdorff affair and of Mr. Woerner's errors as symptoms of an underlying weakness in his government style.

"Where is the strategy of crisis management, beyond the slogans aimed at muddling through? All we see is much confusion and helplessness tactics," the authoritative Die Zeit weekly said.

Most diplomats agreed the Kiessling affair need not have grown to the proportion it did if Mr. Kohl had taken his minister on a "shorter leash".

"Mr. Kohl is a shrewd and skilful politician but he has a reputation for letting decisions over personnel ride. This unhappy episode is clearly going to fuel speculation that he can't take the necessary decisions promptly," one senior diplomat said.

One month ago Mr. Woerner announced he had good grounds to believe Gen. Kiessling was a

security risk. Military intelligence (MAD) had four witnesses who swore they had seen the bachelor general in a homosexual bar in Cologne.

Mr. Woerner stood by his declaration as the evidence appeared to crumble under public scrutiny. The final admission, after weeks of uncertainty that the MAD had bungled, clearly relieved Gen. Kiessling but may have left deep scars in Western Europe's biggest army.

"The affair must have badly affected morale in the Bundeswehr (armed forces), Mr. Woerner will have a very difficult time regaining the full confidence he needs as the political leader of NATO's frontline army," one diplomat said.

Opposition Social Democrat (SPD) spokesman Wolfgang Clement described Mr. Woerner as "the security risk in Kohl's cabinet". A minister who had fired a top general on evidence that turned out to be so flimsy could not

be relied on in times of crisis, he said.

Diplomats said Mr. Kohl had taken a calculated risk in keeping Mr. Woerner and would probably be held personally responsible for any future errors at the ministry.

Mr. Kohl appears to have overcome the worst of the "Kiessling affair". But the SPD has insisted that an all-party parliamentary investigation, set up last week, go ahead.

The inquiry, which will probably focus on the mistakes of the MAD, could also expose Woerner to further criticism. He will clearly be under pressure to take swift action against officials of the defence ministry and military intelligence responsible for the false information on which he acted.

Mr. Kohl made his decision but, it was one of weakness rather than strength. The doubts have been raised and he will surely be under close scrutiny for a while," a diplomat said.

Rising wave of terrorism in America

By David Zimmerman
 Reuter

NEW YORK — Bomb attacks by shadowy anti-establishment guerrilla groups are spreading to America's suburbs, and concrete barriers and other anti-bomb devices are springing up in parts of the U.S. heartland.

"It's an unfortunate sign of the times. We are living in a violent world," said Emily Burger, 42, of Santa Monica, referring to barriers going up around military bases in the Los Angeles area.

The latest bombing, at a motorola factory in the Juarez section of New York City last week, caused extensive damage but not casualties at the plant, which makes police radios and other electronic equipment.

A group called United Freedom Front claimed responsibility for the bombing and said the blast was part of a continuing campaign against "warmongers and profiteers."

The same group claimed responsibility for previous bombings in the New York area, including one in December at a navy recruiting centre in East Meadow, in Nassau County east of the city. The IBM office in Westchester was bombed a year ago.

Some corporations are putting in bulletproof windows and night-vision devices for 24-hour

surveillance, or erecting concrete walls.

The Grumman Corporation, a big defence contractor in Nassau County, is building a three-foot-high concrete barrier in front of its headquarters, and Rockwell International is searching lunch boxes, briefcases and purses of everyone leaving the military contractor's plants across the country.

"We're aware of an increase in terrorism and that we might become a target because we're a military contractor," a Grumman official said. He said the concrete wall "will provide a barrier against somebody who wants to drive a truck into our lobby."

Truck-bombs destroyed the U.S. embassy in Beirut last April and a Marine headquarters in the Lebanese capital in October, leaving more than 300 dead at the two sites.

About 60 more were killed in a simultaneous truck-bombing at a French paratroop headquarters in Beirut, and six more were killed in a truck-bombing at the U.S. embassy in Kuwait in December.

Tip-trucks loaded with sand were parked at entrances to the White House late last year, then were replaced with concrete barriers and a hidden battery of surface-to-air missiles to ward off possible kamikaze attack.

Concrete barriers also stand

outside the State Department and the Capitol, and the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

Following a bombing near the U.S. Senate chamber in November, highly sensitive metal detectors were installed at Capitol doorways, more police were deployed and a plan was approved to make congressional employees, lobbyists and journalists wear identification badges.

Bulletproof metal plates also have been installed in the backs of chairs used by members of the House of Representatives, and one government expert on terrorism told Reuters that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) "is going bananas about suicide attacks."

This is the year of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles and the two presidential nominating conventions, and all three are major potential terrorist targets, he said.

About 18,000 police agents will guard the 12,000 athletes at the Olympics in July, and military bases in the area are beefing up security with guard dogs and concrete barriers.

The Los Angeles police force is massing an \$800,000 arsenal of sophisticated anti-terrorist equipment, including a radio-controlled robot and night vision scopes for possible use during the Olympic games.



LETTERS

A moderating sound

To the Editor:

King Hussein's words have a moderating sound and are good news for the Holy Land and all the countries of your region. I wish to see the Jordan River on a sunny day.

John Farmer,
 Berkeley, Cal., USA.

For the record

To the Editor:

In reference to an article entitled "Jordan to invest more in search for oil" by Mr. Ibrahim Noori of Reuter (Jordan Times, Monday, Dec. 12, 1983), I would like to inform you that I did not state that the present technology of extracting oil out of oilshale rocks is uneconomic for Jordan. Also I did not give the figures mentioned in the article in this respect in my interview with Mr. Noori.

I would like to add that the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has carried a pre-feasibility study for the extraction of oil from the oilshale rocks in Jordan. The results up to now are encouraging and there is great hope to operate an economic extraction technology as a result of the ongoing research.

Kasim Omari,
 Head of the Mining Division,
 Natural Resources Authority,
 Amman.

Benefits of protection evident with Salmon River

By Thomas K. Hamburger

SALMON, Idaho—Nearly every summer for 23 years, Ken Orr has returned to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, a succession of frothing rapids and calm pools that winds 106 miles through Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains.

It's easy to see what draws Mr. Orr back. The rapids are among the most challenging anywhere. The water is so clear that trout can be seen swimming 30 feet down. Rafts glide between tall canyon walls, past prehistoric Indian pictographs and sandy beaches lined with ponderosa pines. On a typical trip downriver, visitors spot mink, otters, bighorn sheep, and over two dozen species of birds.

"This river hasn't changed," Mr. Orr says, leading over the long oars that guide his inflatable raft down the river. "The way it looks today is just the way it did when I first started floating it."

Wildness protected

While other wild rivers in North America have been tamed by dams, contaminated by pollution, or disrupted by development, the Middle Fork remains pristine and wild. The reason: The Middle Fork has been made part of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the strongest protection available for rivers and streams.

When the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act passed Congress in 1968, many of its proponents hoped 100 rivers like the Middle Fork would be protected within a decade. Today, only 61 rivers have been designated Wild and Scenic. Interest in rafting rivers is at an all-time high, but interest in federal preservation has diminished.

In fact, not one river in the continental United States has been

added to the Wild and Scenic system in the past three years. Aquatic funds this year have been virtually eliminated.

A ride with Mr. Orr down the Salmon makes clear what Wild and Scenic protection means.

After leaving a launch point maintained by the U.S. forest service, rafters enter a world far removed from crowds and internal combustion. Federal regulations prohibit motorized boats and limit the number of people who use the river in summer. Camping is permitted by reservation only at a small number of well-established campsites. One sees few other people on a typical six-day trip and few signs of human presence. Visitors are required to carry out all refuse, including ashes from campfires. Dams and new development along the river are prohibited.

Dam dooms rapids

On rivers without Wild and Scenic status, Mr. Orr has seen disturbing changes. California's Stanislaus River is no longer worth rafting since a dam eliminated its white-water stretches. In Southern California, the popular East Carson River is plagued with litter and beer cans, and other rivers are so crowded they "feel like Disneyland," Mr. Orr says. The Colorado River, where motorized rafts carry large parties in the summer, has become so popular that private boaters must wait up to 10 years for a permit.

"There have been some disappointments" in the development of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, says Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., a sponsor of the 1968 legislation. While Mr. Udall is pleased that some rivers have been made "part of our conservation legacy," he believes the



Straining against turbulent eddies in the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho, two experienced paddlers push their inflatable craft back on course. The untamed beauty of the river was preserved when U.S. Congress included it in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. While other rivers across the country have been dammed, polluted, or overcrowded, the Middle Fork flows as free, clean, and clear today as it did when Western explorers first saw it. (N.G. photo)

system moves too slowly. "It has been difficult to get some rivers on the list. There are studies that take too much time, politics that too often stall, and some difficult questions about access."

Under the Act, a river generally can be admitted to the national system only after completion of a federal study recommending any of three levels of protection. The study must first be authorized and later approved by Congress. The process is so cumbersome that four river studies begun in 1975 still have not been completed.

On some rivers admitted to the system, problems have developed. The Middle Fork, like other popular rivers, is in such demand that private rafters must participate in a lottery for a chance to run it. Most people pay commercial outfitters to take them on the river,

leading to charges that outfitters are sometimes the chief beneficiaries of the system.

On the Rin Franke, a Wild and Scenic river, fistfights have broken out over the right to eat lunch on a limited number of sandbars. Landowners along the Delaware River complained bitterly about their treatment by the federal government when the Delaware was added to the system in 1978.

Budget cuts hurt

Administrative difficulties for the system have been intensified because budgets for the agencies that manage the system — the National Park Service, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management — have been cut in recent years.

In Washington, President Reagan has proposed legislation that

would add eight rivers to the system, but the bill has languished in Congress because of controversial sections that would limit the power of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Later this year, Congress may vote on whether to add California's Tuolumne River, where dams are being considered, to the system. Proponents of the damming project vow to fight any such proposal.

The slow development of a federal river system has caused river preservation advocates to look to the state and local level for help. Since the mid-1960s, 27 states have taken some kind of action to protect 271 rivers.

To encourage further river conservation at the state level, Sen. David Durenberger, R-Minn., has introduced legislation to provide federal assistance to states setting up river programmes. The bill also

would provide automatic tax deductions for people donating land along protected rivers.

"State protection isn't perfect," says Robert C. Hoffman of the American Rivers Conservation Fund, because state regulations vary in power and effectiveness. But, he adds, "It beats what we've got now."

On a calm stretch of the Middle Fork, Mr. Orr describes a "secure feeling" knowing his river is protected. His concentration returns to the river as he hears the roar of Rubber Rapid, one of the Middle Fork's toughest. He positions the raft perfectly, plows bow first through furious four-foot plumes of water, and laughs with exhilaration as he and his passengers disappear for a moment in a veil of white-water spray. — National Geographic news feature.

Randa Habib's Corner

Hopefully temporary

FOR THOSE of you who had to go through cross examinations from the Security Department at the Amman Airport inquiring whether you had the "permission" of your husband or father to leave the country, you should rest assured that those are just temporary measures. This is at least what a responsible person in the Security Department told me when I inquired about this subject after one of my female readers phoned to bring this problem to my attention.

This reader, shocked by the idea that she should have the written permission of her brother before she travels, pointed out, with good reason, that "we women of Amman are supposed to have gained some rights; we drive our cars, we have our own business, and some freedom; and here, when we want to travel, we need a clearance from a husband, father or brother. This is revolting."

In fact this is what it is about: Stories of young girls mesmerised by Arab men working in Jordan and going to what they thought would be a fantastic life soon realise their mistake, and so attempt to escape a tiring situation. This is what prompted the Ministry of Interior to be more alert when members of the allegedly weaker sex travel alone.

Measures have been taken to minimise the occurrence of similar incidents. Those measures seem to be temporary. Well, let's hope at least that they are, because you might need to travel urgently and your brother or father is away himself... besides the fact that for our pride of responsible females we strongly hope that the "temporary" would not be everlasting.

'English boom' begins in S. Korea

By Oh Ilson
Reuter

SEOUL—A century ago Koreans regarded virtually everything foreign as hostile, but now South Korea embraces English enthusiastically as a language essential to the nation's prosperity as a rapidly industrialising power.

The "English boom" began after 35 years of Japanese colonial rule collapsed at the end of World War II in 1945.

It was boosted by the subsequent United States military presence, together with English-language radio and television services for the 40,000 U.S. servicemen stationed here.

But two years ago, President Chun Doo Hwan told his people they did not speak English as well as their neighbours and should begin studying in earnest.

For South Korea to become an advanced industrialised society, English fluency was required for communicating with the international community, he said. English is the only foreign language that all Koreans must study, some of them starting in elementary school.

"But we are not so feverish about the new move that it may cause serious problems with national identity of the young being exposed to foreign culture at such early ages," educationalist Min Young-Up told Reuters.

But he said that with the boom in English teaching, finding enough competent teachers and fac-

ilities is a big problem. Many of the more than 10,000 private institutes provide English courses, which are even attended by some pre-school children.

Many foreign visitors are expected to visit South Korea during the 1988 Summer Olympic Games and the 1986 Asian Games.

Police have been issued with booklets teaching basic English expressions for use when meeting foreigners, while most big companies provide English lessons for staff.

A Seoul radio station even broadcasts five-minute English lessons aimed at taxi-drivers. But Koreans' zeal for learning English has had some adverse effects on the Korean language, according to Lee Kyong-Bok, former supervisor at the education ministry.

He said a survey showed that 37 per cent of all radio and television programmes had English names, pronounced and written phonetically in Korean. Some examples were: Sports Highlights, Request Music Hour, News Panorama, Midnight Concert.

Seoul's busiest shopping district, Myeongdong, teems with sign-board reading "Utopia", "Gentlemen's Tailor", "Chandler Hair Dresser's" and the like.

Meanwhile, the education ministry has ruled that the spelling of Romanised Korean names should more closely follow Korean pronunciation.

The red lights of London's Soho District are dimming

By Leslie Dowd
Reuter

LONDON—The red lights of London's Soho District are dimming as a dogged campaign by police, residents and city fathers closes down pornographic bookshops, sex cinemas and topless bars.

Anti-vice campaigners in 1982 counted 165 sex establishments flourishing in Soho, a cosmopolitan district in the heart of the capital.

Now, in the face of police raids, the harsh application of new laws and a determined clean-up campaign by local residents, the number of sex bookshops, bars and cinemas is down below 100 and plummeting.

The results of the clean-up, which reflects some disillusionment in Britain with the

sexual permissiveness of the past, is plain to see in the area first settled by French Huguenot Protestant refugees in the 17th century.

Two years ago Soho was ablaze with garish neon signs offering lurid books, magazines and films, a bewildering variety of sex aids, striptease clubs, sex cinemas and topless bars.

Today the old Soho is reasserting its style and character.

Soho is gaining favour once again for its intimate restaurants, tea shops and specialist delicatessens rather than the offerings of "the vice", as Soho residents call the shady characters who work the sex trade.

Most of the lurid neon signs have been swept away and some once-profitable sex establishments stand empty. Remaining sex shops have blacked out

their shopfronts.

"Soho has survived the sex invasion and we are now over the hump," says residents' campaigner Bryan Burrough.

"But it was a damn close-run thing. In the mid-1970s things got so bad that it was clear... it was either them or us."

Mr. Burrough is vice-chairman of the Soho Society, a residents' pressure group which has grown to 1,200 members since being formed in 1972.

"We even had prostitutes joining," Mr. Burrough told Reuters. "Some of them didn't like what was happening to the area. Paradoxically, real sex was being driven out of Soho, which had been a very romantic place. There's not much erotic about sex shops."

A clutch of new laws last year

gave new teeth to the local municipal authorities to act against the vice in Soho.

One new law required sex shops to be licensed. Last June the first owner to be prosecuted for operating without a licence was fined £12,000 (\$16,000).

Laws governing cinemas were tightened so effectively that sex cinemas have all but disappeared. City inspectors shut several down for lack of fire precautions.

Striptease joints and sex bars are being shut for not having entertainment and food licences.

"We hope that in a few years there will just be six discreet sex shops in Soho, three or four licensed cinemas and three or four well-conducted bars or clubs," said Mr. Burrough.

"The clubs will offer a proper evening out for those who want it,

with no rip-offs and beer at reasonable prices."

But "the vice" is finding ways of fighting back.

Some premises have been converted into topless bars selling fruit juice, others into "nude encounter bars" where a customer can watch a girl cavort on the other side of a plastic screen.

No licence is needed if a physical barrier separates customer and entertainer.

The clean-up campaign intensified after Princess Margaret, Queen Elizabeth's sister, stopped frequenting a Soho clothes shop.

Within months police carried out their biggest raid, seizing £5 million (\$7 million) worth of prurient material in raids on printers, blenders and outlets.

Mr. Burroughs, who works for

the British foreign office, loves Soho. "It's a marvellous place to live," he enthuses.

"There's no vandalism because it's still a real community where you can still get a clock mended or chair recovered locally."

It still has violin makers, sheet music publishers, small tailors and the only workshop in Britain that makes gold braid.

It also has a flourishing street market and seven churches including a synagogue and a mosque. Karl Marx lived in Soho until his death in 1883.

Now, the old traditions are reasserting themselves. As a sign of the times, one cafe which closed in 1980 and has since been a sex club, cinema and topless bar has now reopened — as a cafe.

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England lodges pitch complaint

N. Zealand takes innings victory over England

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — Within hours of suffering a humiliating innings defeat by New Zealand in the second cricket test, England were organising an official protest over the Lancaster Park pitch Sunday.

Team manager Alan Smith said a letter "couched in the strongest possible terms" would be delivered to New Zealand Cricket Council secretary Graham Dowling Monday.

"We are not trying to make excuses or to say that the pitch was directly responsible for our performance, but we feel a protest is justified," he said.

England lost by an innings and 132 runs in a match that lasted only 12 hours — two full days — on a pitch which their captain Bob Willis later described as "a disgrace" and probably the worst on which he had played.

Resuming their first innings on the third day at 53 for seven, England were bowled out for 82. And when they followed on 225 behind they fared little better, man of the match Richard Hadlee taking five for 28 as they stumbled to 93 all out.

The defeat was only the third England have suffered by New Zealand in 55 years. But the most damning statistic was that England failed to score 100 runs in either of their two innings in a test for the first time this century.

Willis made only mild criticism of the pitch at a post-match press conference. But when interviewed later on television he was highly critical of the decision to stage the test at Lancaster Park.

Bob Vance, chairman of the New Zealand Cricket Council, said before the match that the wicket did not appear to be of test

standard but added that he had been guided by other officials in retaining Lancaster Park as the test venue.

But Willis said: "The wicket was in an appalling state. The people responsible for playing the match there and not at Napper Park made a mistake."

"New Zealand played better than we did, but the pitch was going to get worse the longer the match went on and we should not have been playing a test on that pitch."

The England skipper took his bowlers — himself included — to task for allowing New Zealand to reach 307 in their first innings.

"I said that if we bowled a line and length on that wicket they

would not be able to bat on it — but we were completely unable to do that," Willis added. "I can't think of any rhyme or reason why we bowled like that."

His New Zealand counterpart Geoff Howarth defended the wicket and said England's failure was psychological. He said the wicket rewarded good bowling and there were only a few disconcerting moments on the first day when the ball took off.

"The English guys seemed to think the wicket was always going to do something. The pitch was a matter of concern to us, but, to use a modern phrase, they were more psyched out of the match than we were."

"After bowling out England twice for under 100 you have to feel proud. It's a great thrill for me."

It was fitting that all-rounder Richard Hadlee, scourge of the England side since the opening day when he scored a brilliant 99, should be in at the death Sunday.

Noah, Lendl to clash for \$100,000 prize money

TORONTO (R) — Yannick Noah of France needed five sets to beat Polish veteran Wojtek Fibak in the semifinal of the \$250,000 Challenge tennis tournament here Saturday night.

Noah, bothered by back trouble which he described as minor, won the match 5-7, 7-5, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 and plays Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl in the final Sunday for the \$100,000 first prize.

Lendl had a smooth passage to the final when defending champion Jimmy Connors of the United States pulled out of their semifinal because of a pinched nerve in his neck.

Noah, 23, hurt his back last week as he carried his luggage into Toronto, and last night he made three trips to the sidelines to have it treated.

After the match he had a massage and said he expected to be fit for the final. But his opponent is counting on him feeling the strain.

"I definitely will go right at Noah," Lendl said. The pair have a 4-4 record in their encounters.

"On the court, you show no mercy," the Czechoslovak added.

Mandlikova to meet Maleeva

HOUSTON (R) — Hanna Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia seeks her third straight professional tournament victory Sunday when she meets 16-year-old Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria in the finals of a \$150,000 tennis tournament here.

Mandlikova, 21, defeated Barbara Potter of the U.S. 6-4, 6-4 Saturday night to earn a place in the finals.

Her two service breaks were the difference in the match.

"It's very important to serve well against Barbara, because you know she's going to hold her serve," Mandlikova said afterwards.

She is ranked third in the world.

McEnroe turns back Gerulaitis

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Top-seeded John McEnroe turned back a strong challenge from fourth-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis Saturday night and beat his fellow American 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the semifinals of a \$100,000 World Championship tennis tournament here.

Australia warms up for World Series Cricket Cup finals

SYDNEY (R) — West Indies' fast bowler Michael Holding produced a special brand of exhilarating hitting here Sunday as the West Indies and Australia warmed up for the finals of the World Series Cricket Cup.

Holding, batting at number nine, launched a savage attack on the Australian bowlers which resulted in a series of unorthodox but rewarding shots to all parts of the field, to bring the West Indies to the brink of victory.

Holding, who had earlier taken two wickets in a lively exhibition of fast bowling, hammered 10

fours and a mighty six, scoring 64 off only 38 deliveries in a 52-minute innings which brought him the man-of-the-match award.

But the Australians refused to be rattled, and clinched a 14-run win after Kepler Wessels trapped Holding leg before wicket and Carl Rackemann wrapped up the innings by bowling a wildy-swinging Richard Gabriel.

Both Australia and the West Indies had already qualified for the World Series finals which start on Feb. 8.

Australia's hero was captain Kim Hughes, with some brilliant

batting to put them on the way to a score in excess of 200.

Hughes struggled early against a hostile attack and had a lucky escape at 18 when bowler Eldine Baptiste and wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon lost the flight after he had mistimed a leg-side shot and skied the ball high into the air a few metres in front of the crease.

After 32 overs Australia were 100 for two, and it was then the match, watched by a crowd of 27,000, came alive.

Baptiste, whose first eight overs had cost 19 runs, conceded 14 runs in his ninth over and 13 in his

10th as Hughes asserted his authority and wrested control from the West Indies.

Twice Hughes danced down the pitch to hit the ball on the up and send it soaring over mid-wicket for six.

Hughes' luck eventually deserted him after drinks as he hooked and was caught by Richie Richardson a few metres inside the fine leg boundary after adding 119 with opener Wessels.

Wessels, Dean Jones and Rodney Marsh kept up the momentum and helped Australia reach 211 for eight from their 50 overs.

Curry retains WBA boxing title

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — Don Curry won a gruelling 15-round battle with fellow-American Marlon Starling Saturday to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight title on a unanimous points decision.

Curry, unbeaten in 18 bouts, backed Starling up throughout the match and outslugged the challenger when in close.

Starling, now 31-2, 31 landed effective left hooks and right uppercuts but could not follow up on them.

Both fighters, superbly conditioned, shook off the effects of some big punches. Curry wobbled Starling with a right-left combination to the head near the end of the sixth round and had his opponent constantly retreating in the seventh.

But the 25-year-old Starling rocked Curry, 22, twice in the eighth, first with a short flurry and later with a tremendous right uppercut. Curry rebounded by dominating the ninth.

Starling rallied and landed left hooks and uppercuts in the 11th and opened a small cut inside Curry's mouth in the 12th before the champion took charge. Curry pounded Starling to the body continually during the final three rounds.

The victory also gave Curry the vacant International Boxing Federation welterweight championship.

"In the first couple of rounds I thought I'd feel him out," Curry said. "He started backing up and I thought he was worried about going 15 rounds so I took it to him."

"A lot of people think Donald Curry likes his bicycle (fancy footwork) and that I had no heart. But I showed them differently today."

"He was just so strong," Starling said. "I think he ought to move up in weight class."

World record holder Lewis loses in indoor track meet

DALLAS, Texas (R) — Ron Brown nipped world record holder Carl Lewis in the 60-yard dash, and Carol Lewis recorded the ninth best women's indoor long jump ever in the Dallas Times Herald invitational athletics meeting Saturday.

Brown's time of 6.06 seconds in the 60 was 0.4 seconds off the world record time set here in 1983 by Lewis, who finished second on 6.07. Both are Americans.

"Carl is a great athlete, but he is human and he can be beat," said Brown. "Off the track, he and I are friends, but on the track we take care of business."

Lewis said he was disappointed with his start in the 60.

"I made one mistake at the start and that was the difference," he said. "I'm working on some things that will help my start. They worked very well in the heat but not in the finals."

Carol Lewis, Carl's sister, broke her own U.S. record twice during the meeting, jumping 6.76 metres (22 feet 2 1/2 inches) on her sixth attempt.

West German sprinter Ingrid Averslöv finished third in the women's 60-yard dash in 6.76 seconds, which was won by Chandra Cheeseborough of the U.S. in 6.65, just off the world mark of 6.54. Joan Baptiste of Britain was fourth in 6.79 and Alice Brown of the U.S. second in 6.66.

Kirsty McDermott of Britain won the women's 880-yard run with a tournament record of two minutes 6.18 seconds, and said she was pleased with her performance.

"I want to get to the Olympic team so that is why I am here. That, and fun," she said. "I'm over here training in Florida and wanted to see how I was going."

Ajayi Agbabe of Nigeria won the triple jump with a leap of 16.78 metres (55.05 feet). Britons John Herbert and Keith Connor were third and fifth respectively.

Billy Olson won the pole vault with a jump of 5.71 metres (18.73 feet). He finished with fewer misses than France's Pierre Quinon, who cleared the same height. Both men missed three attempts at an indoor record of 5.83 metres.

Patrick Abada of France finished fifth while compatriot Philip Silvion tied for eighth.

Girardelli, Stenmark share slalom wins

BOROVETS, Bulgaria (R) — Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli and Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, both barred from taking part in the Winter Olympics, shared the honours in the last two World Ski Cup pre-Olympic races here this weekend.

Stenmark, whose ski licence bars him from competing at the games, won Saturday's giant slalom ahead of Girardelli, but came second behind the ex-patriate Austrian in Sunday's slalom.

The Swede's 1:49.40 (55.42/53.98) was not enough to beat Girardelli who clocked a combined time over the two legs of 1:49.21 (55.23/53.98).

Welsh rugby team robbed of money

DUBLIN (R) — Several members of the Welsh Rugby Union team were robbed of money while they were playing Ireland in an international match here Saturday, a spokesman for the Welsh team said.

He said the players only discovered the loss, which amounted to "several hundred pounds," when they returned to their changing room at the end of the match which Wales won 18-9.

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N. Korea tries to boost economy

SEOUL (R) — North Korea appears to be striving for more dynamic policies to revive its sluggish economy, making a technocrat its prime minister and calling for greater trade ties with the West.

Officials here and in Tokyo said the government reshuffle, and a drive to step up trade and technical links with friendly Western nations, and even with some which had no diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, reflected the need for fresh policies.

The election of Mr. Kang Song-San as prime minister, announced earlier goes part of the way to producing a more aggressive economic policy, the South Korean and Japanese officials said.

Mr. Kang, who is in his fifties, replaced the older Mr. Li Jong-Ok who is being held partly responsible for the north's poor economic showing even though he was elevated to the post of fourth vice-president, they said. Other appointments included three vice-premiers.

"Indications are that North Korea is replacing ageing officials, including Mr. Li, in favour of technocrats in their fifties to cement the power basis of Mr. Kim Jong-Il," an analyst of North Korean affairs said here.

Mr. Kim Jong-Il, 41, is being groomed to take over from his father, Mr. Kim Il-Sung, 71, who has ruled North Korea since 1948.

Tokyo officials said North Korea appeared to be using new practical policies to try to overcome diplomatic and economic handicaps following a Rangoon bombing in which 17 South Koreans, including four cabinet ministers, were killed last October.

A Burmese court convicted two North Korean army officers of murder after the incident and Rangoon withdrew diplomatic recognition of Pyongyang.

The North Korean Supreme Peoples Assembly said last week: "We should actively develop economic and technical exchanges and trade with capitalist countries which respect the independence of our country."

Analysis in Japan said the policy was first called for by Mr. Kim Il-Sung a few years ago, but they attached significance to it being repeated two weeks after a call by the North for peace talks with the U.S. and South Korea.

In its proposal last month, North Korea for the first time did not exclude Seoul from such talks. But South Korea scorned the proposal, repeating its demand for an initial meeting between the leaders of the two Koreas.

It said the offer was aimed at recovering diplomatic face after the Rangoon bombing.

Defence spending high

During its three-day session the North Korean assembly was told that Pyongyang will allocate 14.6 per cent of its 1984 budget of \$14.6 billion to defence spending.

Analysis in Tokyo said the North Korea had been allocating about 14 per cent of its annual budgets to defence since 1980, compared with more than 30 per cent in the late 1960s.

Officials in South Korea say North Korea spent 23.8 per cent of its Gross National Product (GNP) on military expenditures in 1982, one of the highest rates in the world, against South Korea's 6.4 per cent.

South Korean officials and U.S. diplomats here say a large part of the north's economic troubles is due to its high military expenditure.

The semi-official Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) said in a report last May that North Korea had accumulated trade debts in the 1970s which led to considerably reduced trade with non-communist states in recent years.

Total trade estimated at \$2.2b

The Jetro report estimated North Korea's total trade in calendar 1982 at \$2.2 billion, 17 per cent more than in 1981, of which 60 per cent was with China and the Soviet Union and 20 per cent with Japan.

Japanese foreign ministry sources estimated Pyongyang's current foreign debts at \$2 to \$3 billion, equivalent to a full year's two-way trade, and said North Korea's foreign reserve position seemed to be very tight.

South Korea's foreign debt totals slightly over \$40 billion against more than \$24 billion of exports and its global trade worth more than \$50 billion dollars last year.

The Korea Herald newspaper of South Korea said in an editorial that the North Korean reshuffle was partly "to help bail North Korea out of its present economic quagmire."

It added: "North Korea is said to have accomplished only 45 per cent of its goals set in the second seven-year economic plan with only one year left."

Piracy is increasing, U.N. report says

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations report said Sunday that "old fashioned piracy" was increasing around the world both on the high seas and in port and had become a serious problem for merchant shipping.

It said the pirates were mainly land-based gangs operating from a variety of craft.

"Outright piracy is posing serious problems for merchant shipping and piratical attacks on vessels off certain coastal areas are being reported with growing frequency."

"An increasing number of maritime threats, robberies with violence, assault and even murder are being perpetrated..." the report said.

It was prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for a meeting on maritime fraud and piracy opening here Monday.

The report did not name specific areas where piracy flourished but UNCTAD officials said one region that would be discussed was the busy Malacca Strait between Indonesia and Malaysia where there had been a spate of raids on merchant vessels and oil tankers by attackers in powerful speedboats.

The agency said a thorough reform was needed of banking rules applying to letters of credit and of the bill of lading system if governments were to combat maritime fraud now plaguing world shipping.

The report said the present bill of lading system for cargoes was so flawed it seemed to be almost an ideal instrument for malpractices.

The 11-day meeting was called at the request of developing nations which have complained that they suffered most from fraud and piracy since a large proportion of their trade relies on shipping.

The UNCTAD report described a wide variety of frauds involving misuse of bills of lading, forged documents, theft and unfounded insurance claims.

It said while the problem of piracy could be tackled by better policing and security cooperation between neighbouring states, there were simple and immediate steps which could be taken to make documentary maritime fraud more difficult.

UNCTAD said the bill of lading was an ideal instrument for fraud since it was used as a receipt for goods, evidence of contract of carriage and document of title to the goods.

Bills of lading were forged and sold with false accompanying documents to an innocent buyer after which the vessel would fail to arrive at the specified port or arrive without the goods, by which time the seller would have disappeared, the report said.

Another problem with a trading system which relied on bills of lading, it said, was that dishonest sellers might ship goods of a quality or quantity lower than specified.

It said banks issuing letters of credit inspected documents only on their face value and did not need to determine whether goods actually existed or had been shipped.

Assuming forged documents reflect accurately the specifications of the buyer in the letter of credit there is little to prevent the seller from collecting the purchase price, often amounting to millions of dollars," UNCTAD said.

Thorough reform and tightening of the banking rules applying to letters of credit were needed as were new methods of transferring title in goods transported under bills of lading and improved reporting arrangements for better identifiability and accountability of shipowners and operators, the study said.

It also proposed improved jurisdictional and extradition powers for governments over perpetrators of marine fraud and piracy.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEB. 6, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day and evening to utilize the talents and special gifts with which you are endowed in bringing them to light in new, unique and progressive lines of activity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get in touch with as many friends as you can since they can be of real assistance to you now. Carry through with plans.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can accomplish much in the business world today, provided you seek out bigwigs who can assist you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Look for more enterprising and profitable activities to help you get ahead. Follow your hunches which are leading you correctly.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You know now how to please the one you love and be happier together, so don't hesitate to do so.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to add to your roster of allies. This will broaden your wisdom. Start planning a trip now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Begin the new week properly by looking into more modern ways of handling your interests and career.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to come to better terms with partners and to add others who can be helpful. Utilize a more modern outlook.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be more enthusiastic about the work you have to do and this impresses higher-ups and co-workers. Take health treatments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find more modern ways of enjoying yourself and be sure you dress correctly. Have a more cheerful outlook.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Put some life in your home living and get out of the dull rut you may be in. Invite interesting people to your home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find the best way to increase production and be more alert at whatever else you may be doing. Think logically.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get busy with money-making ideas and get good results and become more prosperous. Talk to one who has been successful.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very alert and aware of what is going on and will be very interested in the modern and in details. Teach early to complete what has been started, but do not thwart the enthusiasm for new enterprises.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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Egypt, U.S. to discuss aid

CAIRO (R) — Two Egyptian ministers left here for Washington Sunday for talks on American aid to Egypt this year, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The visit by minister of economy and foreign trade Mr. Mustafa Kamel Said and Investment and International Co-operation Minister Wajih Shindi follows announcement last week of a 1984 U.S. budget allocating \$2.2 billion in economic and military aid to Egypt.

The budget, which has to be ratified by Congress, would make Egypt the second largest recipient of American aid after Israel.

Press reports here said Mr. Shindi and Mr. Said would ask the U.S. government to allocate some \$300 million of the total in cash instead of channelling it directly into specific projects.

The two ministers were also expected to hold talks with International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials on a standby IMF credit estimated at between \$600 and \$700 million.

The talks with the IMF were postponed from last November because of differences over Egypt's economic policies.

Western economic analysts said the IMF was seeking economic

reforms including lower subsidies on food and oil to help reduce an Egyptian budget deficit expected to reach \$1.5 billion in the current financial year.

Attempts seven years ago by the late president Anwar Sadat to cut subsidies, which kept the cost of a loaf of bread at one piastre (one U.S. cent) and energy prices at one-third of world market prices, provoked widespread rioting.

Officials fear 'peasants' revolt'

BRUSSELS (R) — With European Community (E.C.) farmers facing their most drastic cut in living standards for 20 years, nervous officials fear 1984 could turn into the year of the "peasants' revolt" — especially in France.

French farmers have already hit the headlines this year with guerrilla-style attacks on government offices, railway lines and foreign meat trucks.

European Farm Union officials believe these actions could foreshadow a new, less organised kind of rural protest born of growing despair among peasants, farmers, who claim they have become the community's sacrificial lamb.

Recommendations by the bloc's executive commission for a virtual farm price freeze this year, a move which would slash real farm incomes, could spark a chain of violent local protests hard to control, the officials say.

"It's just not possible that farmers will not react violently to such prices," said Mr. Jan Hinnkens, president of the powerful European farmers' lobby, Copa.

While recession-hit Europe grumbles about pampered farmers producing butter mountains and wine lakes which threaten to bankrupt the community, the farmers complain that their real incomes have plummeted 25 per cent since the mid-1970s.

And now they say the Europeans, faced with a choice between reform and bankruptcy, have prepared an assault on the safety net which saved incomes from falling even further — the cumbersome and controversial Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The guiding principle of the CAP, which guarantees a high support price for every grain of wheat or drop of milk a farmer can produce, is to be changed.

Production ceilings will be imposed and the fabric of the safety net weakened. Union leaders say some farmers are sure to slip through the holes.

Farmers recognise that drastic steps must be taken to shrink the bloated farm budget, but say a price freeze and related farm reforms would put an intolerable burden on small farmers and those who have borrowed heavily to finance modernisation.

"They're using us as hostages to force a political compromise, but they're going too far," Mr. Hinnkens said. "We won't accept that role."

Officials say the poorer farmers of Ireland, Italy and Greece may follow the French lead into the streets, but Dutch, Danish, West German and Belgian farmers could have an even more powerful card to play.

Banks in these northern countries are owed huge debts by industrial farmers who borrowed heavily to finance expansion under the influence of high sup-

port prices in the 1970s.

Soaring interest rates have pushed some of these farmers to the brink of ruin, and national governments may fear problems for their banks if the farmers are allowed to go over the edge.

Caught between the threat of farm violence on the one hand and the financial collapse of the CAP on the other, farm ministers are facing what could be their toughest ever annual price-fixing session, officials and diplomats say.

Community Farm Commissioner Paul Dalsager has said the bloc could go bankrupt unless the ministers approve the austerity package by April, so they have little room for manoeuvre.

Successful conclusion of the talks will require a delicate political balancing act by French Agriculture Minister Michel Rocard, who chairs sessions under the current French community presidency.

France's socialist government can ill afford to alienate the powerful farming lobby ahead of June's European Parliament elections, widely expected to act as a popularity test of President Francois Mitterrand's administration.

And diplomats say the task for West German Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle will be even more difficult.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINIC
HELAT
SMUTTO
GAVESA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: WITH

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANNUL GOURD EMBRYO PARADE
Answer: What you sometimes get when you have fun in the sun—"BURNED"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



THE Daily Crossword By Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

1 Sharp tastes

6 Grandstand section

10 Gentleman's dress item

14 Frightening

15 Eye coquet

16 European river

17 Place for sacrifice

18 Gambol

19 Supreme Court number

20 Dangerous game

23 Golfers' term

24 Whopper

25 Delectable comestibles

33 Vendetta

34 Athirst

35 551

36 Pugilistic name

37 Guessing game

39 Coarse wool

40 Coal measure

41 Party givers: Fr.

42 Jefferson abbr.

43 Bird

47 Rembrandt's output

48 River in China

49 Swimmer's move

50 Port of land

59 Br. prison

60 Uncanny

61 Carry laboriously

62 Within: pref.

63 Sting

64 Outstanding performer

65 Resting place

66 Eastern Asians

DOWN

1 Autocrat

2 Lawyers' grp.

3 Burmese demons

4 Seized

5 Damascene resident

6 Lacerated

7 Slavinsky

8 Patron saint of sailors

9 Driven back

10 Ornamental tiling

11 Amended copy

12 Remitted

13 Sycamore or birch

21 Circle section

22 Liquid measure

25 Criminal

26 Feeling regretful

27 Wasteland

28 Skins an

29 Apple

29 Panting violently

30 Kind of potato

31 Jostle

32 Relatives

33 Kismet

37 Grasshopper

38 Persons held as security

42 Ancient vessel

44 Part of L.D.S.

45 Grain beard

46 Time out

48 Regarding

50 Atop

51 Location

52 Narrow passageway

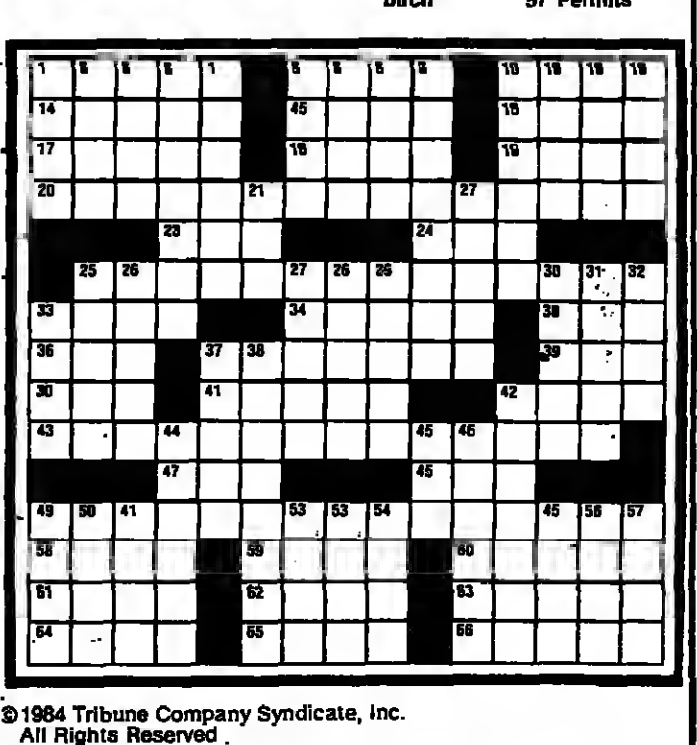
53 Tiny amount

54 Thanks

55 Sandarac tree

56 Telegram

57 Permits



Nicaragua delays elections

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — The Council of State said Saturday it is postponing indefinitely any discussion of elections "until the United States stops escalating its aggression against Nicaragua."

The debates over a proposed set of guidelines for 1985 elections would have taken place Tuesday in the Council of State, which serves as a kind of legislature.

In a statement released Saturday the Council of State said, "the developments in Central America and the aggressions of the United States and Honduras against Nicaragua must be taken into account when we speak of Nicaraguan elections."

The Council of State, an appointed body with weak powers, is headed by Carlos Nuñez.

Nicaragua has blamed the United States and Honduras for separate air attacks Thursday and Friday on a Nicaraguan military barracks. The attacks killed five Nicaraguan soldiers and wounded 11 others.

Some 8,000 Nicaraguan rebels aided by the United States are using bases in Honduras.

Some critics here viewed the decision last December to announce tentative election plans as a

sign Nicaragua was becoming more democratic.

President Reagan, who has referred to Nicaraguan rebels as "freedom fighters," has said the leftist government here has not lived up to the Democratic promises of the 1979 Sandinista revolution.

Recently U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz accused the leftist government of harassing Roman Catholic leaders, Indians and the opposition press.

Opposition party members here have said increasing U.S. criticism and military presence in Central America were important factors in Nicaragua's decision to announce elections in the first place.

Speaking earlier Saturday, Nicaraguan junta leader Daniel Ortega indicated preparations for the scheduled elections would continue. He repeated promises to give the opposition access to state-controlled media and government campaign funds.

He gave no indication the gov-

ernment was thinking of postponing the elections, as was announced later in the day.

Mr. Ortega charged that the United States and Honduras were behind the recent air attacks in northern Nicaragua, near the border with Honduras.

"The attacks on the military barracks in Chinandega were directed by the United States government through the Honduran government and the counter revolutionaries financed by the Central Intelligence Agency," Mr. Ortega said.

Honduras denied its planes were used in the attack and accused the Nicaraguans of "barefaced lying."

The government officially opened the electoral process on Feb. 1. The proposed electoral law was to be under consideration by opposition parties for the first fifteen days of the month and the date of the elections was to be announced on Feb. 21.

The proposed law unveiled by Nuñez on Jan. 14 establishes direct, secret-ballot elections for a president, vice-president and a 90-member constituent assembly.

The statement said the electoral process would not be resumed until the Nicaraguan people could prepare for the elections in peace.

Washington plans big expansion in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The United States is planning a "very significant expansion" of its military presence here, including airstrips, troop housing and munition storage areas, a spokesman for a U.S. senator said Saturday.

Also, the Honduran military "has been pushing very hard" for the United States to set up a major naval facility in the country, the spokesman said.

There are indications that there will be a very significant expansion in the coming future," Mr. Douglas Hall, spokesman for Democratic Senator James Sasser said Saturday night.

Sen. Sasser, a critic of U.S. policy in Central America, Saturday toured several joint U.S.-Honduran military sites.

The United States is planning to build "a couple of more airfields" in the near future, Mr. Hall said.

"That was something that was heard of before but was confirmed today," The United States now has six airfields and two radar stations in Honduras, Mr. Hall said.

Thatcher returns from Hungary

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived home at London's Heathrow Airport Saturday night after her three-day visit to Hungary, her first as prime minister to a Warsaw Pact nation.

Mrs. Thatcher was driven to her official country residence at Chequers, 64 kilometres northwest of London, for the remainder of the weekend.

In Budapest, Mrs. Thatcher said she hoped the Soviets would return to the Geneva arms talks soon. But she added, NATO will not reverse its missile deployment programme as an inducement.

At a news conference that ended her first official visit to a Soviet Bloc country Saturday, she also said President Ronald Reagan was "absolutely sincere" in his disarmament efforts and dismissed speculation about differences between the United States and Britain on the arms issue.

"I hope we get them (the Soviets) back to the nuclear disarmament talks," Mrs. Thatcher said, mentioning as a positive sign the March 16 resumption date of the Vienna talks on reducing conventional forces and armaments in Central Europe.

But she said: "I do not yet know the circumstances under which they will come back."

Moscow pulled out of the Geneva talks on reducing nuclear medium-range missiles, after NATO began deploying new U.S. missiles in West Europe.

Asked if the Western alliance might consider a change in this programme to woo the Soviets back, the prime minister replied: "I do not believe we are able to reverse the decision... we cannot reverse the actual deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles (in Western Europe)."

She re-affirmed the Western view that the deployment came in response to the Soviets' stationing of SS-20 rockets, adding, "we are

evering up."

She denied that there are "any differences between the United States and the United Kingdom. We are loyal and devoted members of the Western alliance."

"Mr. Reagan is absolutely sincere in his desire to see disarmament agreements as long as they are achieved in a balanced and verifiable way," she stressed.

Regarding the chances of improved East-West relations, she cautioned "the process will be inevitably slow..."

Disarmament and East-West relations were the main topics of her talks with Hungarian Premier Gyorgy Lazar and Communist Party Chief Janos Kadar on Friday.

Mrs. Thatcher said Saturday it was too early for a U.S.-Soviet top-level meeting — "a lot of groundwork needs to be done before one approaches such a summit meeting."



Small bets bring big dividend

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong has three new millionaires, the winners of the biggest dividends ever paid at a horse race meeting in the British colony. Each of the anonymous punters won 2,369,733 dollars (\$304,000) by selecting the first two horses in six races at Happy Valley Saturday. Their outlay: 10 dollars (\$1.30.)

Thatcher pressed for statement

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party pressed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to make a statement on her son's alleged involvement with a British firm which won a huge contract in Oman after she visited the sultanate in 1981. The call came three weeks after a newspaper report that Mark Thatcher was in Oman acting for the construction firm, Cementation, at the same time as his mother was supporting its bid for the contract during an official visit there. Despite formal approaches from the newspaper, the Observer, and parliamentary questions from Labour members, Mrs. Thatcher has refused to comment on the report, saying her son's business affairs are a private matter.

Stress hits brightest pupils

MOSCOW (R) — The pressure put on Soviet schoolchildren to perform well leads to stress which can physically damage their health, a doctor wrote in the government newspaper Izvestia Sunday. Children getting top marks have a much higher incidence of nervous complaints including ulcer-like stomach inflammations or bouts of lethargy, Dr. Doletsky of the Academy of Medical Science warned. The article was the latest in a series of contributions and letters on the subject of the planned reform of the Soviet school system.

Elderly man dies after self-starvation

SYRACUSE, New York (R) — An 85-year-old retired college president who a state court said had the right to starve himself to death has died, the family's attorney said Saturday. The identity of the man, said to have decided on a fast because of despair over his deteriorating health, remained secret throughout his 47-day fast. The man's daughter spent an hour with him Friday evening before he died, Attorney Frank Clark said in a statement. In a ruling Thursday, State Supreme Court Justice Donald H. Miller said nothing should prevent the patient's death unless the man, fasting in despair over his deteriorating health, changed his mind.

Pakistan may install hidden microphones

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's military government plans to install hidden microphones in the country's major airports to eavesdrop for possible activities against the state, the official Pakistan Times reported Sunday. The microphones will aid rotating film cameras which are already scrutinising passengers at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar airports, the government newspaper said. The extra-sensitive microphones will be installed in toilets, stalls and counters within the terminal buildings to listen to any conversation in case of suspicion, the Times reported.

Environmentalists try to save wolves

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — Paul Watson and his band of environmentalists have left on their latest crusade — this time to save the lives of wolves in northern British Columbia, Canada's western-most province. About 200 supporters showed up in Vancouver on Saturday to listen to Watson and other leaders of Project Wolf — a coalition of environmentalists opposed to the shooting of wolves in the province's Peace River area. The 12 protesters were hoping public outcry would force the British (Columbia) government to halt the hunt, which biologists say is needed to preserve moose, caribou, elk and wild sheep populations decimated by an over abundance of wolves.

Seven countries support Contadora peace efforts

CARACAS (R) — Seven Latin American heads of state have signed a joint declaration here giving full support for efforts by the so-called Contadora Group of countries to bring peace to Central America and they indirectly condemned an alleged Honduran air attack this week on Nicaragua.

The declaration, also signed by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, came at the end of inauguration ceremonies this week for Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

It was issued after Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, also in Caracas for the celebrations, denounced the Honduran incursion into Nicaraguan airspace, which he said had been masterminded by the United States.

The declaration, in what was seen here as an indirect reference to the air attack, said: "We reject all warlike action which could destabilise any country in the region, as has been occurring recently."

The declaration supported the Contadora efforts by Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama which they said were designed to allow Central America to define its own destiny.

The 10-point document was signed by Presidents Raul Alfonsín of Argentina, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Belisario Betancur of Colombia, Ricardo de la Espriella of Panama, Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica, Hernan Siles Zuzo of Bolivia and Salvador Jorge Blanco of the Dominican Republic.

Postponement of Ustinov visit arouses speculation

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov has abruptly postponed a visit to India, arousing speculation in Moscow that sudden domestic political developments may have prevented him making the trip.

The official news agency TASS carried only a brief announcement that the visit, due to begin on Monday, had been put off "for some time" and offered no explanation.

But in New Delhi, a senior Indian official said Moscow had cited what were called Marshal Ustinov's domestic preoccupations as the reason for the decision.

Marshal Ustinov, 75, is one of the leading members of the ruling politburo and many senior Western analysts believe he has been in charge of day-to-day affairs

during the five-and-a-half month absence of President Yuri Andropov.

Western and Asian diplomats in Moscow said they thought the postponement of his visit could be linked with sudden changes in Mr. Andropov's condition.

Little has been said officially about the ailment which has kept the 69-year-old Kremlin chief out of public view since August, but most Kremlin-watchers believe he is suffering from a kidney-related illness.

But some diplomats said it was just as possible that Marshal Ustinov himself had fallen ill and had to put off the trip. The defence minister is known to have been absent for periods in the past through poor health.

20,000 Filipinos pay tribute to Benigno Aquino

MANILA (R) — A crowd of 20,000 people demanding the resignation of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos marched Sunday to Manila Airport where opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was shot dead in August.

Hundreds of policemen and about a thousand soldiers guarded the airport to keep out the marchers who were protesting against a referendum held last month and to pay homage to Mr. Aquino.

The crowd, which had swelled to 20,000 from only a few hundred when the protest began started at dawn, was led by Agapito "Butz" Aquino, younger brother of the slain politician.

Protesters chanted "Ninoy, Ninoy" and carried "Marcos resign" placards as they walked to the airport. Many wore yellow T-shirts with Mr. Aquino's picture and slogans.

After lengthy negotiations Butz Aquino and 20 others were allowed into the airport to go to the spot where the former senator was killed. They prayed on the tarmac before leaving. There was no violence.

Mr. Aquino, 52, was shot moments after he flew in from three years of voluntary exile in the United States.

The march had begun in the Aquino hometown of Tarlac 90 miles (145 kilometres) from Manila and was to coincide with voting in the referendum on constitutional changes on Jan. 27.

But armed police stopped the marchers entering Manila and they spent two days in a church courtyard outside the city.

The authorities finally gave in and the Aquino supporters entered the capital where tens of thousands of people lined the streets to greet them — many cheering and throwing confetti from office buildings in a massive show of support.

The final leg of the march was set for Sunday and there were only a few hundred demonstrators when it began. Among those who joined the march, billed as "Tarlac to Tarmac", was Luis Araneta, whose son is married to one of Marcos' daughters.

"I am here to give moral support," said Mr. Araneta, wearing a "Ninoy" badge and yellow cap with "I Love Ninoy" on it.

Human Rights Commission to begin annual session

GENEVA (R) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission begins its annual session Monday

encouraged that agreement may finally be in sight to make torture an international crime, but with efforts to produce a draft convention still blocked.

The 43-nation commission has been working since 1978 on a convention to protect individuals from torture or other inhuman treatment but has so far been unable to agree over two issues — a proposal by Sweden that an independent committee could make on-the-spot investigations of torture allegations and the idea of "universal jurisdiction."

Under the latter concept to torture could be arrested anywhere in the world even if his crimes were committed in his own country.

There had been optimism that a sub-group assigned the task could have completed a draft ready for this year's session after the new Argentine government of President Raul Alfonsín announced it was lifting long-standing objections to the convention.

U.N. Human Rights Director Kurt Hermal of Austria told reporters the new Argentine administration had "stated very clearly that it will co-operate fully with the Human Rights Commission."

He said he was encouraged by the Argentine move, which he hoped would influence other countries, but admitted there was little sign of a "final product" on torture emerging from the drafting group.

The Soviet Union is now the most vociferous opponent of the draft torture convention. Moscow accepts the concept of universal jurisdiction but objects to on-the-spot inquiries in its territory.

Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo is expected to make a major address to the commission, which sits for six weeks, setting out his country's new policies on human rights and the issue of people missing under previous military regimes.

U.N. officials said last year they had asked the then Argentine government about the cases of 1,377 missing people but had re-

cived no response.

Argentina's new civilian rulers have asked the U.N. commission to provide information for the national board of inquiry set up by President Alfonsín to investigate the disappearances.

Some 50 human rights groups are expected to converge on Geneva for the session. The commission is often accused of doing nothing but keeping violations under consideration for years when governments refuse to co-operate.

The commission, the main U.N. policy-maker in the human rights field, will examine a wide range of cases and allegations, some of which have been aired annually almost since it came into existence 37 years ago.

Cases on this year's agenda cover Afghanistan, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iran, Kampuchea, Poland, Sri Lanka and Cyprus.

Delegates will discuss a draft convention on the rights of the child, the use of mercenaries and the question of political executions, of which there have been at least two million around the world in the last 15 years according to a U.N. report.

As in earlier years, Iran is likely to be criticised on several issues. It has been accused of as many as 20,000 summary executions since 1980 and there have been fresh reports of Iranian suppression of members of the Baha'i faith. Human rights groups will renew allegations that children as young as 12 years are being sent to become "martyrs" in the war with Iraq. According to U.S. reports 180 members of the Baha'i faith were jailed for their beliefs last November and December and 150 have been executed or died under torture in the past four years.

East-West clashes in the debates over Poland, Guatemala and El Salvador are expected, with Washington arguing that the U.N. criticises right-wing Latin American countries excessively while overlooking abuses by left-wing governments.

Extremists kidnap Indian diplomat

LONDON (R) — Indian officials said Sunday that a Kashmiri extremist group which claims to have kidnapped an Indian diplomat in Britain was using blackmail to demand the release of prisoners.

Police are searching for 48-year-old diplomat Raninder Harshwar Mhatre, an assistant commissioner (ambassador) based in England's second city of Birmingham, who disappeared on Friday night.

A little-known group calling itself the Kashmir Liberation Army said late on Friday night that it had kidnapped an unnamed diplomat and threatened to shoot him if its demands were not met by 2100 GMT Saturday.

A letter, delivered by hand to the London headquarters of Reuters News Agency, demanded payment of a one million sterling (\$1.4 million) ransom and the freeing of what it called Kashmiri political prisoners held by India.

They included Maqbool Butt, who has been linked by Indian authorities to attempts to destabilise Kashmir and is under death sentence in a New Delhi jail. An Indian assistant commissioner in Birmingham, Baldev Kohli, told reporters: "This group claims to belong to Pakistan-held Kashmir and is demanding the release of prisoners. This is a blackmail tactic."

He said the high commission (embassy) had still not been told officially if Mr. Mhatre had been kidnapped and had not received any direct demands.

The Himalayan state of Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since independence from Britain in 1947 and two-thirds of the state is ruled by India.

The Indian high commission has taken up Mr. Mhatre's disappearance with the British Foreign Office and the two are keeping in touch.

Embassies put on alert NEW DELHI (R) — Indian embassies around the world were put on alert Sunday over the possible kidnapping of an Indian diplomat in Britain, authoritative sources said.

The sources said the Indian government regarded very seriously a claim by Kashmiri extremists that they kidnapped the diplomat on Friday night to Birmingham.

They said a senior Indian official was flying immediately to Britain to help Scotland Yard with investigations and the Indian External Affairs Ministry was on 24-hour standby to deal with developments. Indian embassies had been told to step up their security.

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A satellite which was missing in space for more than 15 hours after being deployed by the U.S. space shuttle Challenger was apparently found limping behind the shuttle, in an erratic orbit Saturday.

"It's a very promising sign," Shuttle Flight Director Harold Draughn said after military radar detected an object in orbit trailing Challenger. The "Westar" Western Union Communications Satellite was put in space by Challenger on Friday.

"I think it is a reasonable guess that it is Westar," William Ziegler, Western Union's project manager, told reporters Saturday night.

But neither he nor the Draughn would confirm that the Westar satellite had indeed been found. They said an extensive search of the skies which was mounted Saturday would continue until a positive sighting of Westar was made.

That search included facilities of the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD). It was NORAD radar which discovered the object thought to be the erratic satellite.

After NORAD reported finding the object following some 15 hours of searching various orbits, a Western Union ground station picked up a faint radio signal from the object.

"It was a signal of the type you would expect," Mr. Ziegler said. "It was the right frequency." But he insisted the signal was not enough evidence to say the object was Westar.

The problems with the \$30-million satellite prevented the planned deployment of an identical one Saturday for the government of Indonesia.

But Indonesian authorities later announced they had decided to have their satellite, called Palapa, deployed on Monday.

Sources said the Indonesians decided on Monday, probably the latest practical time available, to give experts as much time as possible to determine what went wrong in the Westar operation.

Since the two satellites and their deployment procedures are identical, experts hoped they might find a unique cause of the Westar failure which would not repeat itself in Palapa.

"We're perfectly willing to take it back with us," Mr. Draughn said of the Indonesian satellite, which like Westar was built by the Hughes Aircraft Company.

However, Mr. Draughn added that, if the Indonesians decided not to deploy their satellite, they would probably have to pay another \$9 million for another launching.

Pentagon's high technology weapons plan faces scrutiny

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon plan to defend Western Europe with an array of sophisticated weapons designed to avoid nuclear war is facing tough scrutiny following a series of controversial tests.

"Under the 'deep strike' strategy, which has won the strong backing of U.S. General Bernard Rogers, supreme commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), advanced airborne radar would be deployed to detect Soviet tank formations moving to reinforce troops at the front."

The radar would relay information to computers which in turn would dispatch missiles carrying "smart" munitions designed to home in on the engine heat of Soviet tanks and destroy them.

In theory, such an onslaught would stall the momentum of any Soviet attack and allow Western forces at the front to hold a defensive line without yielding allied territory or restoring quickly to nuclear weapons.

But critics say tests of this so-called "assault breaker" technology have been less than spectacular and charge that the system would not work well on a real battlefield.

After disappointing results in a series of test shots against moving tanks, the Defence Department decided to use ground-based radar rather than the airborne type that would be deployed in the system and to shoot at stationary rather than moving tanks, according to a Pentagon weapons analyst.

The targets were hit in that test, but a department report on the test series said: "The ability to hit multiple targets in a moving array remains to be demonstrated (and) four attempts at multiple target engagement have been unsuccessful."

The unclassified report, a copy of which was provided to Reuters by a private source, said the tests had shown assault breaker was feasible and that development should continue.

But the Pentagon weapons analyst, who spoke on condition that his name not be used, said the tests were artificial — conducted in the New Mexico desert rather than a "high clutter" wooded area of the sort one would find in Western Europe, where smart weapons would have more difficulty finding their targets.

None of the tests demonstrated that all the elements of assault breaker — airborne radar, missiles and smart munitions — could work together, he said.

The system would also be highly vulnerable to Soviet counter-measures such as masking a tank's engine heat or creating deceptive sources of heat, the analyst said.

He quoted the army missile command as saying that tests had shown assault breaker to have only a limited capability to deal with counter-measures.

But an official in the Pentagon's assault breaker office said the tests had not been intended to duplicate battlefield conditions and that all counter-measures had been taken into account.

On top of criticism of the test results, Pentagon backers of assault breaker have faced fire from air force and army officials who

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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MAKE SURE YOU GET THERE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 1086
♥ 532
♦ A 65
♣ 6543

WEST ♦ 52
♥ QJ96
♦ 10932
♣ Q108

EAST ♦ A3
♥ 1074
♦ KJ84
♣ K972

SOUTH ♦ KQJ974
♥ AK8
♦ Q7
♣ AJ

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♦ Pass Pass Dble
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

South received a reprieve in the auction. Unfortunately, he did not have the technical skill to take advantage of it.

East cannot be faulted for his balancing double. It was bad luck that he found South with such a strong hand and his partner with relatively little. Still he ended up with a plus score, so it wasn't all bad.

West led the queen of hearts. Declarer won and led the king of trumps, which

was allowed to win. The trump continuation was won by the ace, and East reverted to hearts. Declarer tried for an end play by cashing the ace of clubs and exiting with the jack. This time West won, cashed a heart winner and exited with a diamond.

In the fullness of time declarer lost a diamond trick for down one.

Declarer did not use his resources to best advantage. On the auction, there was a good chance that East held the king of diamonds, and that was all that declarer needed to make his contract.

At trick two declarer should lead the nine of trumps from hand and overtake with dummy's ten. Let's suppose that East wins and returns a heart. Declarer wins, enters dummy by overtaking the seven of trumps with the eight, and leads a diamond.

The defenders are rendered helpless. Suppose that East wins the king, cashes a heart and then shifts to a club. Declarer rises with the ace, cashes the queen of diamonds and gets back to the board with the last trump. The ace of diamonds takes care of the club loser, and the contract is safe.